

February 3, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of Senate Bill 327  
(Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal) -  
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Members,

Good Trouble Church supports Senate Bill 327 (Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal). This legislation will revise existing criminal law by removing items that could be used to consume drugs from their classification as drug paraphernalia. Many of us, including myself, have lived and or living experience with drug use.

A grass-roots, faith expansive community coming together in the name of healing and human flourishing, Good Trouble Church is a ministry centering love and freedom, leadership and liberation, community care, and sacred ceremony. Started by those who have been made vulnerable by systemic racism and the war on drugs, Good Trouble Church places harm reduction at the center of everything we do.

For many years, the punitive policies enacted in the name of the racist war on drugs have forced people who use drugs to face incarceration, suffer social and emotional isolation, and engage in risky behaviors that put their health and that of others at risk. We believe that our community and every community in Maryland deserve more. We believe people who use drugs deserve dignity, respect, equitable health care, and justice. Senate Bill 327 is a step towards healing instead of harm.

Every scientific and medical organization to study the issue has shown that legal access to sterile supplies reduces the spread of HIV, hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases. For these health benefits to materialize in Maryland, people who use drugs need to feel as though they can access supplies without law enforcement repercussions.

Allowing people to use drugs more safely with the proper tools is positive for everyone in the community- not only in slowing/stopping the spread of infectious disease, but also in lifting the stigma that isolates people who use drugs.

We believe that this bill will simplify Maryland's criminal law, improve our state's infectious disease and overdose prevention response, and keep legally obtained items legal. We ask that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee give Senate Bill 327 a favorable report.

Thank You,  
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