



Maryland Alliance for Sensible Drug Policy

LIVED EXPERIENCE. REAL SOLUTIONS.

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Chair Smith,
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB327, Criminal Law – Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions – Repeal (FAVORABLE)

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the committee:

I'm submitting this testimony in **strong support of SB327** on behalf of the Maryland Alliance for Sensible Drug Policy, a state-wide member-based advocacy group lead by people with lived or living experience with substance use.

Lived experience shows paraphernalia prohibitions cause harm

For many Marylanders, paraphernalia prohibitions mean they reuse, share, or throw supplies away in unsafe places. The results are predictable: more infections, more injuries, more fear of seeking help, and more harms that spill into the community. We asked our members to share their personal experiences and a few themes emerged:

- **Criminalization pushes people to reuse or share supplies even when they know the risks.**

"During COVID it felt seemingly impossible to find clean syringes/supplies. Because I was in the thick of my addiction, I was going to use substances, regardless of the supplies that were available. The only option on one particular evening, was to use a dull needle that belonged to someone that was diagnosed with Hep-C. I knew that this person Hep-C, and I knew that this needle was dull, and yet I put it into my body regardless. I still have permanent nerve damage to this day because of that experience, due to digging around in my arm with a dull needle."

– Person in recovery and Overdose Prevention Coordinator in Montgomery County.

- **Paraphernalia stigma does not stay neatly confined to drug use.**

"The police were rude, they did not even treat me as a human. I am diabetic and at that time I was using insulin with syringes. I have never been an IV drug user, so the thought of being interrogated about them was never on my mind. I felt humiliated."

– Person in Recovery and Certified Community Health Worker in Talbot County