

Date: February 3, 2026

Written Testimony
In Support of Senate Bill 327
Criminal Law – Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions –
Repeal

Submitted by:
Tiffinee Scott
Parent and Advocate
Baltimore, Maryland

Before the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Tiffinee Scott, and I am a parent and community advocate from Baltimore City. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 327, which seeks to repeal criminal penalties for drug and controlled paraphernalia.

Through my experience witnessing the fear and uncertainty within individuals, families, and communities, I have seen firsthand that criminalization does not protect people. Instead, it pushes them away from essential help. Criminalizing paraphernalia does not stop drug use; rather, it forces individuals to use alone, share supplies, and avoid carrying safer-use materials to evade arrest. These conditions increase the risk of overdose, the spread of infectious diseases, and delays in obtaining ongoing support.

Furthermore, paraphernalia arrests place a heavy burden on families and communities. Families absorb the consequences of these arrests through lost income, court involvement, housing instability, and long-term barriers to employment. These laws perpetuate cycles of justice involvement that fail to support stability or recovery.

Access to harm reduction services keeps people alive and creates pathways to care. Repealing these prohibitions will allow individuals to engage with services without fear and enable outreach workers to perform their lifesaving work more effectively. Survival is the first step toward recovery.

Senate Bill 327 is a necessary step toward addressing public health by shifting our response from punishment to care. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 327.

Thank you,

Tiffinee Scott
Parent and Advocate

