

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,

My name is Samantha Kerr, a resident of District 46 and I strongly supports Senate Bill 327 (Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal) which will end all penalties for drug paraphernalia. This is a common-sense, evidence-based bill that prioritizes the health and safety of all Marylanders.

Ending paraphernalia penalties is common sense and overdue.

- Paraphernalia law criminalizes otherwise legal, everyday objects - small plastic bags, spoons, and scales. Syringes can be purchased legally at a pharmacy without a prescription. These become illegal when associated with suspected drugs, even if no drugs are present. Legal items should remain legal.
- Maryland is falling behind other states. 20 states have decriminalized syringe possession for personal use. Minnesota has fully repealed paraphernalia penalties, and Alaska has never criminalized paraphernalia. Maryland's paraphernalia laws are outdated.

I 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.**

For more information about this position, please contact [darci@baltimoreharmreduction.org](mailto:darci@baltimoreharmreduction.org)

Sincerely,

Samantha Kerr  
Baltimore City District 46