

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett
Chairwoman, House Judiciary Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 100
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SUPPORT of House Bill 551
(Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal) -
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and House Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Lukah Love and I am a resident of Maryland's 45th Legislative District. I'm writing to express my emphatic support for House Bill 551 (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.

As a third-generation Marylander, I have been proud of the care and support our state has provided many of our most at-risk neighbors and communities. Having worked in harm reduction for over 5 years, nonprofit finance for nearly 10 years, and in community organizing for over 15, I know how truly valuable this state support is.

Ending penalties for paraphernalia will improve the health and safety of our communities. As a harm reductionist, I look forward to the passage of this bill increasing engagement and trust among the people my organization serves. As a person who has lost a number of loved ones to overdose, I appreciate the way this bill will help reduce stigma and encourage people to feel safer engaging with overdose prevention resources.

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 House Judiciary Committee give HB551 a favorable report.**

For more information about this position, feel free to contact me at lukahlove@gmail.com. Thank you for your care and attention to this crucial bill.

Sincerely,

Lukah Love
Baltimore City
MD District 45