

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,

I, Hyun Dunn, an overdose prevention specialist, 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.

I currently work for one of the major syringe services programs in Baltimore City, which is also a registered Overdose Reversal Program. Our main goal is to provide safer use supplies to people in the community, which also includes Naloxone. Every major scientific and medical body to study syringe access has found it reduces the spread of HIV, hepatitis C, and other blood-borne diseases. We also understand that fear of arrest leads people to share syringes rather than carry sterile supplies; disease transmission is caused by shared paraphernalia, not by drug use itself. Decriminalizing all paraphernalia would help reduce syringe litter in the communities and reduce potential syringe sticks that law enforcement and other people may encounter.

Ending these penalties would mean that the people we serve everyday can live a safer life, not overwhelmed and burdened by the law and criminalization from otherwise legal, everyday objects.

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, please contact Hyun Dunn at skeltonjelly@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Hyun Dunn
Baltimore City