

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the House Judiciary and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committees,

I am a constituent from Baltimore City, a voter, and a social sciences research professional. I strongly support [HB551](#) / [SB327](#) (Criminal Law - Drug Paraphernalia and Controlled Paraphernalia Prohibitions - Repeal) as a common-sense bill to support community health and safety for all Marylanders. In this bill, legally obtained items remain legal; illegal drugs remain illegal. As someone who has worked in community-based research in Baltimore City, I have seen the struggles and difficulties that people living with drug addiction face every day. The threat of arrest and burden of fines do not divert people from getting into trouble; they simply add to existing hardships and exert undue pressure on people who already have a difficult time making ends meet. Our city and state resources should be focused on helping those in need, not on punishing them.

This bill is a priority for me, the people I work with, and my community. I hope it is a priority for the Maryland General Assembly. Please bring this bill to a vote.

Thank you for your leadership and attention on this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Mollie McMahon, MSPH