

Subject: Support for HB551 / SB327: End Paraphernalia Penalties Now

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 4:02:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Edward Traver <ed.traver@gmail.com>

To: AA_JUD@mga.maryland.gov <AA_JUD@mga.maryland.gov>, sandy.bartlett@house.maryland.gov <sandy.bartlett@house.maryland.gov>, debra.davis@house.maryland.gov <debra.davis@house.maryland.gov>, AA_JPR@mga.maryland.gov <AA_JPR@mga.maryland.gov>, will.smith@senate.maryland.gov <will.smith@senate.maryland.gov>, jeff.waldstreicher@senate.maryland.gov <jeff.waldstreicher@senate.maryland.gov>

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 District 46, a voter, and a an infectious disease physician and scientist. 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. **Every day I take care of patients who are infected with invasive soft tissue infections, HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. Providing new, sterile equipment prevents these infections and provides an on-ramp to substance use disorder treatment and other health services.** This bill is a priority for me, my patients, my loved ones, and my community, and it needs to be a priority for the Maryland General Assembly.

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

Sincerely,

Edward C Traver, MD

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