

SB 60: Drug Paraphernalia Amendments Senate Sponsor: Dr. Jen Plumb

The opioid crisis has been as a serious threat to public health and safety. Finding strategies to decrease the impact on our communities is crucial. Connecting people to syringe service providers helps reduce infectious diseases as well as provides important connections to wellness and treatment/recovery. Decreasing syringe litter helps protect community members, law enforcement officers, and first responders. This bill seeks to promote collaborative relationships between public health and public safety, reduce healthcare costs, and decrease law enforcement burdens.

Decreases healthcare costs related to blood borne infections per case:

- Hepatitis C (\$100,000)
- Endocarditis (\$200,000+ per infection)
- HIV (millions over a lifetime)
- Soft tissue infection
- Creates consistency between state public health programming and policy

Decreases barriers to accessing syringe exchange programs, resulting in increased probability of saving a life and engagement in treatment.

This will support participants in learning to safely dispose syringes resulting in less hazardous community litter (\$0.07 per syringe).

One study reports 66% reduction in needle stick injuries to officers, largely because suspects are more likely to declare present syringes if it's not an offense to carry one.

This shift in culture will allow for better relationships between the public and law enforcement.

Decrease in Class B Misdemeanor charges which decreases burden on law enforcement and prosecution agencies.

Decrease syringe litter and potential associated risks in our communities. Encourages safe and responsible disposal of syringes.

Public Safety Benefits: decreases the potential for law enforcement interaction escalating to violence.

Decreases evidence storage amounts and decrease burden to law enforcement agencies for storage of biohazardous material/evidence.

Allows for better relationships and information sharing between public health and public safety on what supply is present in communities (some communities are piloting these programs already and providing data that's not obtainable by standard methods).