

Members of the House Government and Operations Committee,

Please count me as a critic of the health department's needle program for addicts.

Mr. Stoner of the health department disclosed the fact to me, that out of 140,000 needles distributed in three years (almost 200 per day), less than 40,000 were returned for proper disposal.

A lot of the missing 100,000 needles are discarded foolishly by addicts who throw them out along public streets, schools, parks, bus stops.

I safely pick up discarded needles and dispose of them whenever I see them in our neighborhood as I walk our dog.

This practice by the health department is unacceptable and shows an uncaring lack of responsibility for contributing to a growing problem by Mr. Stoner and the health department.

If an addict is issued 10 free needles, they should be required to return 10 needles. Period.

Sincerely

Paul Highbarger

Halfway

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