

Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Travis Smith. I'm a resident of Washington County and am a recovering Drug addict. When I heard on the radio this morning that the Washington County Health Department was issuing free forms of drug paraphernalia like burners and tourniquet it blew my mind. As a recovering drug addict, I can personally attest to the fact that this is absolutely the wrong strategy to get people better. What helped me get better was outpatient treatment and ultimately getting on Suboxone. I needed to take serious and real steps to get off drugs, not simple perpetuate drug use in a "safer" way.

Unfortunately for a lot of people I know, funding for out patient services in the Washington County Health department appears to have been cut and the program largely eliminated. I'm frustrated to see that the health department stopped doing something that actually helped me, and is now operating a completely counter productive program. I support Delegate Parrott's efforts to reform this program. We need to get people off of drugs to get them better. Recovery, not perpetuation, is the key.

Thank you for your consideration,

Travis Smith

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