

February 25, 2019  
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about overdose deaths. Opioid abuse is a large and rapidly growing problem with overdoses now representing two percent of all US deaths, well above guns and car accidents and continuing to increase. I am pleased to see that you have declared this to be an emergency and proposed funding to help. This will require a range of approaches, from prosecuting drug manufacturers at one end to trying to reduce overdose deaths at the other and one fast to implement approach which has been quite effective in British Columbia and Australia is government run safe injection sites where deaths, drug related crime and discarded needles all dropped dramatically in the areas near these sites while enrollment in treatment programs rose. This is a logical step from the needle exchange programs which have been so effective in combating HIV infection. Unfortunately Ms Pfaff representing the DEA has signaled opposition to this life-saving approach.

*Please assure me that you will support safe injection sites.*

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our government for the people.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson