

Testimony
Senate Bill 2320 – Department of Human Services
House Human Services Committee
Representative Weisz, Chairman
March 14, 2017

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Pamela Sagness, Director of the Behavioral Health Division for the Department of Human Services. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2320.

Recent studies have affirmed (Syringe Services Programs) SSPs efficacy in encouraging and facilitating entry into treatment for intravenous drug users and thereby reducing illicit drug use. Numerous studies have also documented SSPs effectiveness in reducing the risk of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection among intravenous drug users and their partners. The Surgeon General has identified that SSPs are effective in reducing drug abuse and the risk that the public will become infected with the etiologic agent for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

That concludes my testimony. I am available to address any questions.