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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Jeffrey P. Pyle
60th Legislative District *JPP...*

RE: Proposed Legislation
Limit Sale of Hypodermic Needles & Syringes to Minors without Prescription
(Previously HB 2641, 2009-2010)

DATE: December 15, 2010

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation that will amend the Pharmacy Act (Act 699 of 1961) to prohibit the sale of hypodermic needles and syringes to persons under the age of 18 without a prescription.

Prior to September 2009, regulations of the State Board of Pharmacy (49 Pa. Code section 27.18 (s)) required a prescription for all sales of hypodermic needles and syringes regardless of age. Effective September 12 of last year the Board amended its regulation to remove the prescription requirement altogether, and currently anyone can legally purchase these items from a pharmacist without prescription and in any amount. In practical terms, any 12 year old that wants a pickup truck load of syringes can now legally obtain them with their greatest obstacle being the use of the pickup truck.

My legislation will amend the Pharmacy Act to supersede the current regulation. The bill will require a prescription for all sales to persons under 18, and allow those 18 and over to purchase up to 30 hypodermic needles and syringes without a prescription. If the individual desires to purchase more than 30 such items they would require a prescription for that amount. This number has been chosen as a cap figure due to accommodation of diabetics and other legally prescribed intravenous drug users--30 represents 1 syringe per day.

This language, I feel, is vital toward our efforts to stem illegal drug use among our adolescents, namely heroin. If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact my Harrisburg Legislative Assistant, Tracey Mattern, at 783-5327 or via e-mail at tmattern@pahousegop.com as soon as possible to be added. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

JPP:tm

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