

Utah needle exchange program put on hold

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OGDEN — A Utah needle exchange program has been put on hold following concerns from law enforcement that it would encourage drug use.

Leaders of the program plan to meet with law enforcement officials to answer their questions before moving forward with the plan, the Standard-Examiner reported Thursday.

The program was expected to start last week. It is designed to curb the spread of such diseases as hepatitis C and HIV by making clean needles available.

Utah Department of Health education and training coordinator Heather Bush said needle exchange programs can help reduce drug use by keeping drug users healthy and directing them to counseling programs.

Utah legalized needle exchange programs last year in hopes of curbing the state's rise in illegal drug use and the spread of diseases contracted through dirty needles.

Thoughts

1. Is funding and giving drug addicts the tools for them to use illegal drugs enabling them to continue using illegal drugs? If it is enabling drug addicts to continue using illegal drugs, is this not sanctioning, encouraging, teaching, educating, giving permission, and in part being responsible for them to use illegal drugs?
2. What about cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, or any illegal drug that doesn't involve using a needle? Are the people who manufacture and sell these products to people enabling, sanctioning, encouraging, teaching, educating, giving permission, and in part being responsible for people to use illegal drugs? Are there clean needles to give these addicts to prevent them from contracting diseases?
3. What about pornography? Are there clean needles to give porn addicts to prevent them from contracting pornography diseases?
4. There is the idea that people who use these addicting, harmful, and devastating things are only hurting themselves... Really?
 - a. How does this effect their family and loved ones?
 - b. How does this effect their job? (sick days/causing others to do their work)
 - c. How does this effect society? (health care costs/Incarceration costs/Dui impaired accidents and deaths/Abuse of others/break-up of the family...)

5. Is funding and giving drug addicts the tools for them to use illegal drugs enabling them to continue using illegal drugs without having to fear the negative consequences of contracting diseases from dirty needles?

3. Do drug addicts actually fear negative consequences in the first place? Addiction, diseases, death, incarceration, alienation from spouse, children, family, friends, joblessness, homelessness, poor health, dead end future, etc.?

2. The desire for people to help drug addicts from contracting diseases from dirty needles is noble, however, does giving drug addicts clean needles help them eliminate their drug addiction, or is it just a solution to prevent the consequences of contracting diseases from using dirty needles...

3. Peoples good intentions to help drug addicts not contract diseases from dirty needles is good, but it is the right help path to help drug addicts?

3. Is giving drug addicts the tools for them to use illegal drugs to help prevent drug addicts from contracting diseases from dirty needles actually the best way to help them with their drug addiction? Or is it the best way to help prevent them from contracting diseases from their drug addiction.

Does giving the tools to drug addicts to prevent diseases help the drug addict solve their root problem?

What about driving issues? Speeding, tailgating, unsafe lane changes, unsafe turning, reckless driving, driving while impaired... Way too many innocent people die from the driving of unsafe drivers... Then, when the police take action to curb this problem, it's the police that are perceived as the bad guys! Or it's the insurance companies when they raise your rates...