

Southwestern  
Pennsylvania  
**AIDS**  
**Planning**  
**Coalition**

September 19, 2007

Melanie Zimmerman  
Executive Secretary  
State Board of Pharmacy  
P. O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

**RE: Proposed Change in Rules on Sales of Hypodermic Needles and Syringes**

On behalf of the Southwestern Pennsylvania AIDS Planning Coalition (SWPAPC), the umbrella agency for HIV/AIDS care and prevention services planning for eleven counties in southwest Pennsylvania, I am writing in strong support of the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy's proposed changes in rules to eliminate the requirement of a prescription for purchase of syringes in Pennsylvania. We believe that this proposed change to the current regulations will assist in stemming infections from blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis. We are aware that extensive research has indicated that increased access to sterile syringes is an essential component in effective prevention of these blood-borne diseases. We believe this is good and effective public health practice. Pennsylvania is the last state in the country to take this important step in reducing disease transmission and we consider this change to be long overdue.

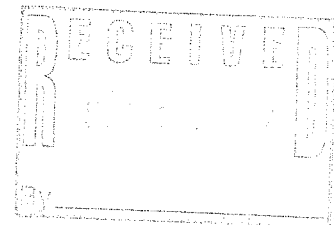
The SWPAPC wishes to present for the Board's consideration, removing the restriction on the number of syringes that can be purchased at one time. To effectively reduce the transmission of blood-borne disease, all injections should be completed with a sterile syringe. Efforts to restrict the number of syringes a person can purchase simply increase the likelihood that syringes will be re-used and run counter to good public health practice. Most other states do not have such a restriction.

We strongly encourage the Board of Pharmacy to implement the proposed changes to the existing regulations expeditiously and eliminate the restrictions on sale of syringes.

Yours sincerely,

*Doyin Desalu*

Doyin Desalu, MS, MPH, DrPH  
Executive Director



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