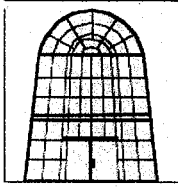


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HUMANITIES
and
SOCIAL SCIENCES
Carnegie Mellon

Caroline Jean Acker
Associate Professor

History Department
College of Humanities and
Social Sciences
Baker Hall 240
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
(412)-268-6040
acker@andrew.cmu.edu

September 21, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Zimmerman,

I am writing to support the Board of Pharmacy's action in allowing purchase of syringes without a prescription. Increased access to syringes is desperately needed to control and reduce the spread of such blood-borne pathogens as HIV and HCV. I commend the Board in taking this action.

As a historian of public health and infectious disease, I recognize the importance of ready access to the means of preventing infection. As the president of the board of directors of Prevention Point Pittsburgh, Allegheny County's needle exchange program, I know that needle exchange alone cannot meet the need for sterile injection equipment among injection drug users. Since there are only two needle exchange programs in the entire state of Pennsylvania, pharmacy access to syringes will be the only means for injection drug users in most of the state to reduce their risk of disease through injection. I would favor a regulation which placed no limits on the number of syringes that could be purchased without a prescription but am glad to see this progress in the direction of greater access. Enactment of this resolution will bring Pennsylvania in line with every other state in the union.

Sincerely,

Caroline Jean Acker, Ph.D.
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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