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Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Martin LaLonde
Subject: Re: check out page 9 on laboratory testing

Sure thing. And I believe I've testified on this topic in Committee on prior occasions. The screening tests are designed to provide information on drugs or drug categories that are *likely* to be found in the sample. Because of their intended use, they aren't designed to be 100%. The goal is to provide a direction for additional confirmatory testing using the equipment and methodology that's discussed at the bottom of page 9. Here at our lab, we use a screening instrument that's role is to guide us toward what drug or drugs to confirm the sample for. Confirmation testing of samples for drugs is extremely complex and isn't a one-shot deal. There are a variety of different extraction methods in order to get the drugs out of the blood and then different instrumental procedures to follow. For instance, we have a stand-alone procedure just to confirm for THC. A separate procedure is being designed for cocaine, fentanyl, morphine, and meth. A third for another panel of drugs. So on and so forth. The screening allows us to take a practical approach to confirmatory testing. Thus, why it's absolutely crucial to have general idea what's in the sample. When validating screening methods prior to implementation, labs have a good idea of which drugs have a higher likelihood of cross-reactivity, etc. and build safe guards into the procedures to account for that. At the end of the day, screening results are presumptive only - they give you a strong indication of what the sample contains, but it's the confirmatory testing that holds the weight.

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