

Dear Senator Lyons,

Last night I attended a Brattleboro Selectboard meeting at which Senators Harrison and Hashim and Representatives Burke, Kornheiser and Toleno provided an update on current legislation, including H.72 which has been referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare. I was surprised that the legislators suggested that safe injection sites were common and their benefits were certain. Neither is true. Most Vermont municipalities, like Brattleboro, have a small and compact downtown. No other community of 10,000 people in the world hosts a safe injection site. Putting one in a small community like Brattleboro without clear evidence of the possible consequences is reckless and I ask that you oppose it.

Even more upsetting was the notion that our legislative delegation, not the Selectboard or the voters of Brattleboro, was the appropriate body to designate Brattleboro for this experiment. Please oppose any effort to remove the opt-in language from the current bill.

I would be delighted to appear before the Committee on Health and Welfare to provide testimony regarding this matter.

Thanks,

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