

From: [Paul Aguilar](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Agenda item to I'm just learning to agenda overdose protection programs
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:28:35 PM
Attachments: [SIF ltr of support.docx](#)

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last my phone dropped the call just as you were about to discuss this agenda item and I was unable to log back in so I am sending you my written statement in support of this legislation for the record

"Honorifice virtutem veritatis"

Paul A. Aguilar - He/Him/His
415.577.7755 - mobile

Read "Get Rid of the Term AIDS (How My Entire Life Suddenly Became Parenthetical) <https://aumag.org/2020/03/17/get-rid-of-the-term-aids/>

Read "The Test" <https://aumag.org/2019/08/06/the-test-nonfiction-by-paul-a-aguilar/>

Read "Never Forget Your First") <https://aumag.org/2019/01/10/never-forget-your-first-nonfiction-by-paul-a-aguilar/>

From: [Wes Saver](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Breed, Mayor London \(MYR\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [RivamonteMesa, Abigail \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Overdose Prevention Programs (File #200243) – SUPPORT
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:47:09 AM
Attachments: [2020.06.11 - GLIDE Support Letter - Overdose Prevention Programs.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Carroll and Distinguished Members of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee,

Please find the attached position letter on behalf of GLIDE in support of the ordinance to amend the Health Code to authorize overdose prevention programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wesley Saver

--

Wesley Saver

Policy Manager

Center for Social Justice

GLIDE 330 Ellis Street, Room 506, San Francisco, CA 94102

OFFICE (415) 674-5536 | **MOBILE** (847) 682-8639

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President & CEO

June 11, 2020

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Submitted via electronic mail

Re: Overdose Prevention Programs (File #200243)—SUPPORT

Dear Supervisors Mandelman, Stefani, and Walton,

On behalf of GLIDE, I am writing in support of the ordinance proposed by Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Matt Haney to amend the Health Code to authorize overdose prevention programs (OPPs). OPPs are legally sanctioned facilities where people are able to use pre-obtained illicit drugs in a clinical setting with expert medical supervision and sterile supplies.

Legislation in many states, including California, has improved access to sterile syringes to prevent HIV, hepatitis C, and other infectious diseases, broadened the use of the life-saving drug naloxone, and expanded the use of effective treatment and drug diversion programs. This proposal for supervised consumption would extend the harm reduction strategies already in use in San Francisco, and is designed to reduce the health and societal problems associated with drug use.

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, GLIDE has implemented harm reduction strategies to curtail the spread of disease and reduce stigma. Because many people will continue to use drugs and engage in other chaotic or risky behaviors—despite criminalization and prevention efforts—GLIDE utilizes a health- and human-centered approach, which respects the rights of people who use drugs. With judgement-free compassion, GLIDE provides testing, treatment, and education, both in-house and in the field. We find it vital that people stigmatized for using drugs are given the best treatment and resources available to help them, so that they can live their lives in the best way possible.

OPPs have been extensively evaluated to show an incredible benefit to people who use drugs, their families, and the community at large. Providing people who use drugs with a community of care saves costs due to a reduction in the spread of infectious disease, overdose and overdose death, and reliance on law enforcement, courts and jails, emergency rooms, and related medical services.

A 2016 study found that every dollar spent on an OPP would generate \$2.33 in savings, for a total annual net savings of \$3.5 million for a single 13-booth facility. Further studies have shown OPPs increase access to care and recovery programs, and improve community health, well-being, and safety. Additionally, OPPs address inequity around drug use by providing the poorest and marginalized who use drugs on the streets or in other risky and unhygienic conditions with the dignity and privacy often only available to those with the financial means to a home.

The City and County of San Francisco wants and needs these programs. In 2017, the Board of Supervisors convened a task force to review the issue, and the task force *unanimously* recommended moving forward with the programs to improve public health and safety in San Francisco. Over 100 such programs are currently operating in countries around the world, including Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Spain, Denmark, France, Australia, and Canada. Insite, in Vancouver, Canada, became the first OPP established in North America in 2003. In addition to their thousands of referrals to community-based services—like addiction counseling, detoxification, health centers, methadone maintenance therapy, and long-term recovery houses—associated research also shows *no local increase* in the number of people who use drugs, drug trafficking or consumption crimes, or relapse rates, and *not a single fatality* at the OPP. Studies from other countries, too, have shown similar results.

It is a societal imperative to switch the modus operandi around drug use toward one of health, inclusion, and social justice. By directing resources spared from criminalizing drug-users, we can create systems that heal rather than exacerbate the wounds of our community.

We strongly believe that OPPs are in line with GLIDE's values and the values of San Francisco as a whole. As such, we respectfully request your AYE vote in support of this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration, and for your service to the people of San Francisco. If you have any questions, you may contact me at wsaver@glide.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Saver', written in a cursive style.

Wesley Saver
Policy Manager, GLIDE

GLIDE is a social justice movement, social service provider, and spiritual community dedicated to strengthening communities and transforming lives. Located in San Francisco's

culturally vibrant but poverty-stricken Tenderloin neighborhood, GLIDE addresses the needs of, and advocates for, the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and families among us.

Cc: John Carroll, Committee Clerk via john.carroll@sfgov.org
Mayor London Breed via MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org
Supervisor Matt Haney via Matt.Haney@sfgov.org
Abigail Rivamonte Mesa via abigail.rivamontemesa@sfgov.org

From: [JoAnn Shea](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Safe Consumption Sites
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:01:35 PM

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Hello Mr. Carroll,

I am urging you to allow for the establishment of Safe Consumption Sites in San Francisco, per AB 362. Safe Consumption Sites allow those struggling with addiction to safely consume and receive resources on addiction treatment. We need not lose any more San Franciscans to overdose; we have a chance to make San Francisco a safer and kinder place through the passage of this bill.

Thank you,
Megan Shea
San Francisco resident

From: [Brenna Alexander](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Overdose Prevention Programs (File #200243) – SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:49:44 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee,

My name is Brenna Alexander and I live and work in San Francisco. I am writing to express my strong support of AB 362 and the creation of safe consumption programs.

AB 362 has tremendous potential to save lives by preventing overdose deaths, which tragically symbolize our failure to care for people struggling with addiction. In declaring her support for this bill, Mayor Breed aptly conveyed that amongst the 100 overdose prevention programs worldwide, “no site has experienced an overdose death and many have transitioned clients into detox services” (Garcia, 2017). Insite, one safe injection site in Vancouver, Canada, proudly reports that no fatalities have occurred in their 14 years of operation, even as roughly 220,000 injections take place under their supervision each year (Eggman, 2019; Irwin, 2019). In 2017 alone, Insite served 7,301 different individuals, providing over 2,500 overdose interventions as well as 3,708 “clinical treatment interventions,” ranging from medical attention and wound care to referrals for detox centers and residential programs (Babcock, 2019).

Safe consumption site staff would fill critical roles in encouraging and supporting people to consider additional treatment options, ranging from abstinence-based programs to methadone and buprenorphine replacement therapies. In addition to reducing overdose deaths, services have been proven to reduce transmission rates of HIV and Hepatitis C by promoting safe injection practices and providing sterile supplies (Irwin, 2017). For this reason alone, SIS could have tremendous effects in San Francisco and across the nation, as people who inject drugs “comprise less than 1% of the U.S. population” but “experience roughly 56% of new Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infections and 11% of new HIV infections” (Irwin, 2016).

For these reasons, I ask the board to please VOTE IN SUPPORT of AB 362, and to do everything it can to get the state Senate to pass the legislation this year.

Sources cited:

- Eggman, S. Controlled substances: overdose prevention program. , Pub. L. No. AB 362 (2019).
- Controlled Substances: Overdose Prevention Program, (2019) (testimony of Judy Babcock).
- Garica, B. (2017). San Francisco Safe Injection Services Task Force - Final Report. San Francisco: San Francisco Department of Public Health.
- Irwin, A., Jozaghi, E., Bluthenthal, R. N., & Kral, A. H. (2017). A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Potential Supervised Injection Facility in San Francisco, California, USA. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 47(2), 164–184. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022042616679829>

Best,

Brenna Alexander (she/her)

San Francisco resident and social worker
760-662-8970

From: [Calder Lorenz](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Overdose Prevention Program: Thursday June 11th 10AM PSNS
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:46:24 PM
Attachments: [LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR OD Prevention in SF 06_10_20.docx](#)

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Hi John,

Can you please add our letter of support to Board File 200243 Overdose Prevention Program.

Appreciate the help, Best, Calder

Calder Lorenz (he/him/his)
Advocacy Manager
(415) 592-2729 office
CLorenz@stanthonysf.org
[St. Anthony's](#)

ST. ANTHONY'S

Hope Served Daily



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San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Regarding: Overdose Prevention Programs
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Supervisors:

St. Anthony Foundation supports San Francisco in establishing effective overdose prevention services. We write in support of this ordinance sponsored by Mayor Breed and Supervisor Haney that would address the increase in drug overdose deaths, connect people to drug treatment, and reduce new HIV and hepatitis infections. Twelve Californians die every day of an accidental drug overdoseⁱ, on average, leaving behind grieving friends and family. San Francisco's Department of Public Health reported 259 overdose deaths in 2018.ⁱⁱ Overdose prevention programs would make San Francisco safer and healthier.

Overdose prevention programs (OPP) have been shown to reduce health and safety problems associated with drug useⁱⁱⁱ, including public drug use^{iv}, discarded syringes^v, HIV and hepatitis infections^{vi}, and overdose deaths^{vii}. Our City wants and needs these programs. They are supported by the mayor, the Board of Supervisors, Sheriffs, the District Attorneys, Chambers of Commerce, and in many cases a significant majority of the public.

St. Anthony Foundation's mission is to feed, clothe, shelter, heal, and lift the spirits of those in need, and create a society in which all persons flourish. Our Franciscan values, on which we are founded and which continue to guide us, compel us to serve our fellow humans with dignity, compassion, and respect – and with no judgement. St. Anthony's supports overdose prevention programs and calls for more just and compassionate approaches by police, public agencies, and policymakers. An overdose prevention approach is one that cares for and protects our neighbors, without leaving them more vulnerable and deeper in suffering.

For those reasons, St. Anthony Foundation strongly supports this policy that will allow our City to offer effective, safe, and compassionate overdose prevention programs.

Sincerely,

Jose Ramirez
Executive Director

StAnthonySF.org

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ST. ANTHONY'S

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ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2015). "Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths – United States, 2000-2014". *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, 64(50); 1378-82. December 18, 2015

ⁱⁱ San Francisco Department of Public Health, "Overdose Deaths on the Rise in San Francisco, Mostly Due to Fentanyl," *Press Release*. February 18, 2020.

ⁱⁱⁱ C. Potier et al, "Supervised injection services: What has been demonstrated? A systematic literature review," *Drug Alcohol Depend* 118, no.2-3 (2011): 100-10

^{iv} Evan Wood, et al., "Changes in public order after the opening of a medically supervised safer injecting facility for illicit injection drug users," *CMAJ* 171(7) (2004): 731-734

^v Steven Petrar et al., "Injection Drug Users' Perceptions Regarding Use of a Medically Supervised Safer Injecting Facility," *Journal of Addictive Behaviors* 32, no.5 (2007):1088-1093

^{vi} Salaam Semaan et al., "Potential role of safer injection facilities in reducing HIV and Hepatitis C infections and overdose mortality in the United States," *Drug & Alcohol Dependence* 118 (2011): 100– 110

^{vii} Brandon D.L. Marshall et al., "Reduction in overdose mortality after the opening of North America's first medically supervised safer injecting facility: a retrospective population-based study," *Lancet* 377 (2011): 1429–37

StAnthonySF.org

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