

Madam Chair, members of this committee, bill sponsors,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Chris Stock, PharmD, I worked for 25 years with veterans in a VA substance use treatment program. I know many veterans who were unable to access the VA's, I know too many veterans who, sadly, died as a result of their drug use.

I wish to represent Colorado's military veterans who use drugs, and I am here to support this bill because there are hundreds of veterans in Denver who need and in their words "would appreciate having access to" safe and supervised drug use services.

Veterans need these services in Denver because:

Denver honors veterans.

There are hundreds of veterans in Denver who inject and use drugs. The Denver VA does not provide a full range of harm reduction services for veterans.

Many of these veterans currently live alone and use alone – the most dangerous situation for the risk of overdosing.

Veterans have a significantly higher rate of opioid overdose deaths compared to the general population

Veterans have a higher rate of HCV and HIV infection compared to the general population.

Supervised use services reduce the risk of overdose and spread of infectious diseases.

For these reasons, I ask that you support SB18 040!

Thank you.

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this document is to provide information regarding the company's policies and procedures. It is intended for all employees and is subject to change without notice.

This document is confidential and contains information that is proprietary to the company. It is not to be distributed outside of the company or used for any other purpose.

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The company is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all employees. We encourage all employees to report any safety concerns to their supervisor.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Department at (555) 123-4567.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to the success of the company.

Thank you for your attention to this important document.

Best regards,  
[Signature]

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Thank you.

Veterans need access to supervised injection services



# Honoring Veterans

Veterans: Denver -> 30,000 veterans

Colorado > 1000 veterans without permanent housing

Harm Reduction Action Center -> 200 participants have veteran status, many without housing

These veterans have access to clean syringes, clean supplies, naloxone and overdose education but no one to supervise their use. For those without housing and a partner, friend or spouse, they return to their camp, car, bathroom or room and use alone. That is the most dangerous situation for overdose and use of non-sterile syringes and equipment. Those I have spoken with 'would be appreciative' to have access to a supervised and safe injection facility.

Why do Veterans need SB18 040?

Full harm reduction services are not available at the Denver VA

Veterans are at significantly greater risk of opioid overdose death compared to the general population!

Opioid overdose death rate:

Colorado (2000 - 2013) = increased from 1.6 deaths/100,000 population to 5.4/100,000 \*

Colorado Veterans (2001-2009) = 10.1 deaths/100,000 population \*\*

Veterans are at greater risk of HIV and HCV infection compared to the general population! \*\*\*



Access to supervised injection services will prevent deaths, spread of disease and loneliness among veterans who use drugs.

Thank you,

Chris Stock, PharmD

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\* Examining Opioid and Heroin-Related Drug Overdose in Colorado. CDPHE Health Watch November 2016 No. 100. Allison Rosenthal, Kirk Bol, Barbara Gabella.

\*\* Bohnert AS, Ilgen MA, Trafton JA, Kerns RD, Eisenberg A, Ganoczy D, Blow FC. Trends and regional variation in opioid overdose mortality among Veterans Health Administration patients, fiscal year 2001 to 2009. The Clinical journal of pain. 2014 Jul 1;30(7):605-12.

\*\*\* Multiple sources

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