



County Administration

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Official Electronic Letterhead

April 1, 2013

**Regarding: SB 808 (Margolis)
Position: SUPPORT**

Senator Aaron Bean
Committee on Health Policy
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Bean:

As the Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC) Chairman, I am writing in support of your proposed legislation, SB 808 (& HB 735), to legalize syringe exchange programs (SEP) in the state of Florida. The LEPC is a law enforcement sub-committee of the Criminal Justice Commission, and is comprised of criminal justice officials from fifty (50) local, state, and federal law enforcement/criminal justice agencies in Palm Beach County.

The LEPC is greatly concerned by the sharing and improper disposal of contaminated needles as it raises intrinsic public and officer safety issues – putting both law enforcement and the general public at undue risk for exposure to infectious diseases. Studies have shown that the implementation of SEPs reduces the risk to the general public and officers patrolling our community; and that they do not increase the prevalence of illicit drug use.

We commend you and the legislature for proposing such legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 561-844-3456 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Chief Steven Kniffin
Law Enforcement Planning Council Chairman
Criminal Justice Commission
Palm Beach County

cc: Senator Gwen Margolis