

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Kevin Boyle

Re: Amending the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Control Abuse Act

Date: August 23, 2011

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to provide communities with the ability to weigh in on the approval process of Narcotic Treatment Facilities. This legislation will supplement the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Control Abuse Act of 1972. My legislation has four key provisions that will ensure community involvement in the placement of these facilities.

First, my legislation will include law enforcement expertise in the approval process. It will require the owner of the proposed facility would need to secure approval from the local District Attorney in the district for which the facility is planned. Local law enforcement approval is essential due to their expertise of the local drug problems and effect of these treatment facilities.

Second, the proposed facility must provide adequate parking space before the Department of Health can approve the facilities application. Narcotic Treatment Facilities can serve as many as 350 people daily. The availability of parking can be a major concern for the community.

Third, the Department of Health must provide notice to all city, state, and federal elected officials representing the location of a proposed facility within five days from the receipt of the application.

Finally, my legislation will require a public notification and a public comment period concerning the operator's plans to open a narcotic treatment facility. The public comment period must take place before the Department of Health can approve the application for the proposed facility.

Narcotic Treatment Facilities are a vital asset to rehabilitating persons with addictions. Poor operation or administration of this treatment will compound the problems we already face. My legislation aims to include the community and tighten loose regulations currently in place for these facilities.

If you wish to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Dan Green via email at dgreen@pahouse.net or by calling (717) 783-4944.