

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Kevin Boyle

Re: Reintroduction of House Bill 1885
Amending the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Control Abuse Act

Date: January 3, 2013

In the near future, I will be reintroducing House Bill 1885 of 2011. You will recall that this legislation would provide communities with the ability to weigh in on the approval process of narcotic treatment facilities. This legislation will amend the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Control Abuse Act of 1972 and includes 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 to secure approval from the local District Attorney. Local law enforcement approval is essential due to their knowledge of local drug problems as well as their view of the impact that such a facility may have in the proposed area.

Second, the operator of proposed facility must demonstrate that it will provide adequate parking space before the Department of Health can approve its 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 written notice of the application to all city, state, and federal elected officials representing the location of the proposed facility within five business days from the receipt of that 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. There is no doubt that narcotic treatment facilities are a vital tool for rehabilitating persons with addictions. However, poor operation or administration of these facilities will compound the problems we already face. My legislation aims to include the community and tighten those loose regulations currently in place for these facilities.