

**Proposed Resolution of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee on Supporting the  
Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County  
ADOPTED February 24, 2021**

WHEREAS an increasing number of Democratic leaders, including many of the recent 2020 Presidential candidates<sup>1</sup> support increasing funding and access to harm reduction and addiction services because there is overwhelming evidence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>2</sup> that these services reduce overdose deaths, disease transmission, needle litter and costs for local governments;

WHEREAS the Democratic-led California State Legislature passed the California Harm Reduction Initiative which allocated \$15.2 million through the Budget Act of 2019 to increase Syringe Services Programs<sup>3</sup> and the county “brick-and-mortar” syringe services program can not meet all the needs throughout Santa Cruz County, especially Watsonville and San Lorenzo Valley areas;

WHEREAS the HRCSCC has received a \$400,000 grant to be used over 3 years from the California Department of Public Health’s California Harm Reduction Initiative which requires them to abide by strict guidelines<sup>4</sup> and accountability when administering their program which is supported by our public health officer Dr.Gail Newel, and exemplifies the compassionate approach to our fellow humans championed by the Democratic Party;

NOW THEREFORE the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee hereby:

RESOLVES that Syringe Service Programs administered under the California Department of Health guidelines, including the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County programs and services, provide a significant positive benefit to our communities by:

- reducing overdose deaths;
- reducing county government healthcare costs by reducing substance-use related infections and viral infections like HIV and hepatitis C virus;
- serving as a bridge to healthcare and addiction recovery services;
- protecting the community and public workers by reducing the spread of infectious disease and reducing needle litter in the community without increasing criminal activity or drug use;
- having required reporting to our health officer and Health Services Agency.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/10/20851108/opioid-epidemic-2020-democratic-presidential-candidate>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-factsheet.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://shorturl.at/zGY58>

<sup>4</sup> <https://californiapct.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-opt.pdf>

Further Reading and other sources of info.

<https://www.harmreductioncoalitionofsantacruzcounty.com/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-summary.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/>

<https://cruzgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opdashboard/index.html#/750668821e704dd3a89b14d00cdbf5f7>

<https://californiaptc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-opt.pdf>

<http://ftp.costamesaca.gov/costamesaca/planningcommission/agenda/2019/2019-07-08/PH-6-Att-1.pdf>

<https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2019-10-25/court-order-all-but-bans-mobile-needle-exchange-program-in-costa-mesa-other-o-c-cities>

<https://beta.documentcloud.org/documents/20421648-cdph-petition-complaint-12-08-20pr>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-factsheet.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358593/>

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/902a267c624a31780f2479ee0/files/12644347-94f6-4c7d-9ca9-f44db80585fe/CORRE\\_Press\\_Release\\_1\\_.pdf?utm\\_source=California+Contacts&utm\\_campaign=75f6a1fa1e-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_06\\_21\\_02\\_58&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f14d0ac822-75f6a1fa1e-238789817](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/902a267c624a31780f2479ee0/files/12644347-94f6-4c7d-9ca9-f44db80585fe/CORRE_Press_Release_1_.pdf?utm_source=California+Contacts&utm_campaign=75f6a1fa1e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_06_21_02_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f14d0ac822-75f6a1fa1e-238789817)

<https://harmreduction.org/blog/harm-reduction-coalition-selected-to-lead-15-2-million-california-harm-reduction-initiative/>

<https://www.lac.org/assets/files/LAC-polling-sheet-combo-no-crops.pdf>

<https://www.lac.org/news/lac-2020-policy-recommendations-promoting-access-to-care-health-justice-and-equity-opportunity>

<https://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2018/public-support-for-needle-exchange-programs-safe-injection-sites-remains-low-in-US.html>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2019-01-24/opioid-crisis-harm-reduction-struggles-for-acceptance-in-us>

<https://harmreduction.org/issues/establishing-rural-programs/>

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/10/20851108/opioid-epidemic-2020-democratic-presidential-candidate>

<https://drugpolicy.org/press-release/2020/09/syringe-access-bill-california-signed-law-governor-newsom>