

Date

To Whom It May Concern,

As a worried resident, I am writing to express my opposition to the application submitted by the Harm Reduction Institute (HRI) to operate a needle distribution program in Santa Ana, California. This opposition stems from serious concerns regarding public health, safety, and the well-being of our community. I believe that approving HRI's application would only exacerbate these issues and pose significant risks to the health, safety, and quality of life Santa Ana residents.

Needle distribution programs have historically been associated with increased public health risks. A needle distribution program that operated in Santa Ana from 2016 to 2018, resulted in 250,000 used syringes being discarded in public areas frequented by children, including the Civic Center, library, senior center, neighborhoods, and businesses. Presently, HRI plans to operate a needle distribution program in our community that would, on an annual basis, provide 300,000 syringes—while only collecting 180,000. This means that 120,000 needles annually could be discarded in public areas.

Additionally, injected drug user-related human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) statistics for the entire County of Orange accounts for 17 cases; it is inappropriate to imply all those cases are from Santa Ana. The 17 cases cited in those statistics only represent a very small fraction of the entire county population—less than one percent, or 0.005%. These statistics do not justify the need for a needle distribution program in our city.

The operation of a needle distribution program by HRI would seriously jeopardize the health, safety, and well-being of our youth, neighborhoods, and businesses. We cannot afford to ignore the negative impacts that a needle exchange program will have on our community.

For these reasons, I oppose the needle distribution program in Santa Ana. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Name