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March 10, 2025

## **Statement on HB2929: An Out of the Box Approach to Fighting Overdose Deaths**

As your State Representative, I fight to protect both fiscal responsibility and freedom. This foundation is unwavering and I greatly appreciate your continued support and trust. I prepared this document as I'm planning to support an out-of-the-box idea regarding drug overdoses.

Sadly, the growing overdose crisis is ravaging communities across Illinois, costing taxpayers millions in emergency responses, hospitalizations, and law enforcement resources. More critically though, it's costing lives.

I share deep concerns about failed liberal policies encouraging drug use without accountability. I also recognize our current approach isn't working. For this reason, I decided to support HB2929, a limited, trial-based approach to addressing overdoses in Illinois.

HB2929 allows local communities to establish trial-based overdose prevention sites, with strict monitoring and reporting, evaluating their effectiveness in connecting individuals to treatment and reducing overdose deaths. There's no statewide mandate, as local communities must approve any site. Also, any site is a trial, and if it proves to cause more harm than good, the General Assembly has the authority to close it based on the program's findings and reviews.

Multiple constituents have shared heartbreaking stories with me about losing loved ones to overdoses. This bill is a potential aid. It's not about enabling drug use—it's about preventing drug death, providing people treatment, and reducing taxpayer burdens created by overdoses.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on HB2929**

### **1. Aren't you supporting liberal drug policies?**

No. Liberal-run cities like Portland and San Francisco have failed because they enable drug use without consequence. Also, this idea is a controlled pilot program, not a permanent policy. It will be measured, reviewed, and shut down if it doesn't work. The key difference here is connecting people with treatment. HB2929 provides the connecting framework.

## 2. How does this idea align with conservative values?

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Overdose deaths and related emergency services cost taxpayers millions. If this idea reduces these costs, it's worth consideration.
- **Local Control:** Communities choose whether to participate—no statewide mandate.
- **Personal Recovery and Responsibility:** These sites connect people with recovery and treatment rather than leaving them to overdose in public places.

## 3. Why not focus on law enforcement instead?

Law enforcement is already overwhelmed, and this crisis isn't going away by simply arresting people. A comprehensive approach—including enforcement, harm reduction, and treatment—is the only way to fix this issue. Closing our national borders is a huge help too.

## 4. How do we know this idea won't make things worse?

The bill requires a full review within 12 months. If these sites increase crime or fail to reduce overdoses, the General Assembly has the authority to close them. This idea is about gathering real-world data before making any long-term policy decisions.

## 5. How does this idea align with pro-life values?

This idea is about saving lives. If people die from overdoses, we lose the chance to help them recover. This trial allows us to intervene before it's too late.

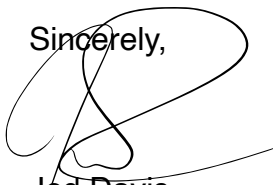
## Final Thoughts

I'm committed to conservative, freedom-loving principles and practical solutions. We can't keep doing the same thing and expecting different results. This idea is a trial, not a permanent policy. If it prevents deaths, gets people into treatment, and lowers costs, then it's worth considering.

In short, let's give an out-of-the-box idea a shot.

If you have concerns or want to discuss this one further, please reach out. My goal is always representing you with both pragmatism and principle.

Sincerely,



Jed Davis  
State Representative - 75th District  
Illinois House of Representatives