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Issues - Needle Exchange - Endorsements - Republicans

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Prominent Republicans Who Support Needle Exchange Programs To Fight The Spread of AIDS

C. Everett Koop Says Needle Exchange Studies Show "Good Results"

C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General under the Reagan Administration, supporting state regulation of needle exchange: "Every study that's been done has been done chiefly abroad, not in this country, and they all show good results. No increased use of drugs and a reduction in AIDS." While Surgeon General, Koop said if needle exchange "will contain the epidemic, you've got to be for it." [ABC This Week, 8/24/97; Chicago Tribune, 3/6/88]

Representative Ganske Says We Can't "Close the Door" on Needle Exchange

According to U.S. Representative Greg Ganske (R-IA), "we will never win the fight against AIDS unless we stop its spread through shared needles...It would be wrong to close the door on federal involvement in the projects...I urge my colleagues to think of the thousands of children who get AIDS because the parents got HIV from a dirty needle." [The Herald-Sun, 9/14/97]

Representative Morella Says Needle Exchange Reduced HIV Cases in Baltimore

According to *AIDS Policy and Law*: "Representative Constance Morella, R-Md., said Baltimore City's needle-exchange program has been associated with a 40 percent reduction in new HIV cases. Researchers there found no evidence that the swaps led to increased drug use." [AIDS Policy and Law, 10/3/97]

Mayor Riordan Says Needle Exchange Needed to Prevent "Extraordinary Loss of Life"

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan (R) said needle exchange programs are needed to prevent "extraordinary loss of life" to AIDS. He encouraged the police department, the city attorney's office and the police commission "to immediately create and implement proper procedures to avoid needless investigations of needle exchange programs." Government studies "have shown that effective needle exchange programs help reduce HIV transmission," according to Riordan. [San Diego Union-Tribune, 11/20/94; Reuters, 9/7/94]

16 Republican Representatives Voted Not to Ban Needle Exchange

On September 11, 1997, 16 Republican Representatives voted against an amendment offered by Representative J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) to prohibit federal funding for any needle exchange program. The Hastert Amendment was part of a larger Labor, HHS, Education, and related agencies appropriations bill (HR 2264). Here are the 16 Republicans who voted not to ban needle exchange: Nancy Johnson (R-CT), Chris Shays (R-CT), Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), Tom Campbell (R-CA), William Thomas (R-CA), Steve Horn (R-CA), Bill Young (R-AL), Mark Foley (R-FL), Jim Leach (R-IA), Greg Ganske (R-IA), Jim McCrery (R-LA), John Cooksey (R-LA), Constance Morella (R-MD), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Amory Houghton Jr. (R-NY), and James Greenwood (R-PA). [Congressional Record, 9/11/97]