



Funding for Needle Exchanges is Misplaced Compassion

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Lifting the ban on needle exchanges is unwise. There is no question needle exchanges prolong addiction. A harmful addiction should be held with the same horror as a physical disease. Or worse. Going through an unsatisfiable craving each day, knowing you've ruined your life, and knowing you harm the lives of those around you are sadder than almost any physical ailment.

Needle exchanges wrongly substitute for tough treatment and tough words. Words like "injecting for the first time is a death sentence"; "you are murdering yourself and others" are at least a deterrent. Even if it doesn't work, at least we are doing the RIGHT thing.

Progressives who want to continue people's addiction once again do the WRONG thing. In a misguided effort to make an addict FEEL good, they fail to DO good. The best compassion for addicts is IMMEDIATE tough therapy. And the best deterrent for some would-be addicts is that very wise phrase for which many progressives have disdain:

"just... say... no".

That phrase came from the lips of Nancy Reagan, and she was right.

Now, every compassionate bone in our body says "if a guy's craving is so strong that he wants to run over his mother to get his next fix, we have to DO something. But there's a muscle in our body, the brain, that should say "get tough and lick this problem NOW". Thus the 12 step programs, and other programs that rely on recognizing God's love. These are the only programs that work, because it takes awe of God to contend against these horrible cravings.

Now, progressives often don't like 12 step programs BECAUSE they invoke God. This is a shame. Some progressives want to PRIVATELY fund needle exchanges; that's not good, but at least it doesn't enlist us to pay for bad. But damn us if we let our government fund addiction.