



REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW BRENNER
DISTRICT 67
REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN HUFFMAN
DISTRICT 80

March 21, 2017

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, thank you for taking the time to hear House Bill 117, the naltrexone pilot program.

The pilot program is designed to ensure that any person who agrees to participate to undergo naltrexone therapy must do so as a condition of supervised release. They will receive an initial therapy session thirty days prior to release and continue the therapy outside of the correctional facilities. They will report to Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Boards (ADAMH) and the cost will be conducted through Medicaid or health insurance. Currently, Medicaid covers the health care coverage of former inmates. The aim of the bill is to reduce the risk and use of addictive substances after a former inmate is released. Specifically, the bill aims to ensure that those who are in the penal system that suffer from a heroin addiction do not relapse upon release.

The risks of overdose increase dramatically if a former inmate uses after being incarcerated. Those who relapse frequently will use the amount of heroin they took while they were addicted. By using what they perceived to be a typical dosage, many fail to realize that their tolerance to the drug decreases dramatically. According to a study in 1998, most individuals who died from a heroin overdose had not used the drug in the last four months leading up to their deaths.¹ If an inmate who has not used heroin in the penal system for an extended period of time, they have a greater risk of overdose and death once they return to society in their release. House Bill 117 aims to help those who wish to continue their treatment outside of correctional facilities and reduce their risks of relapse.

House Bill 117 is a pilot program. This program is a statewide pilot that will begin on July 1, 2018 and will sunset June 30, 2023. The pilot is entirely voluntary. Someone who wishes to participate must be informed of the medical treatment, therapy and conditions of supervised release. This is to ensure that only those who seek the treatment are the ones who participate.

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you today about House Bill 117. I would also like to thank my joint sponsor for his support of the legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

¹ <http://www.businessinsider.com/philip-seymour-hoffman-overdose-2014-2>