

## **SB 8 Prohibiting Safe Injection Sites in the Commonwealth Background and Arguments for Support/Opposition**

Safe Injection Sites are also known as Safe Consumption Spaces or Overdose Prevention Centers. According to the Centers for Disease Control, a total of 5,169 Pennsylvanians died of an overdose in 2022. Safe Injection Sites remain illegal under federal law.

### **Supportive Arguments**

- Pennsylvania should be committed to finding the appropriate strategy, including adequate funding for treatment and community-based recovery support services, and Safe Injection Sites are counter-productive to this goal.
- Safe Injection Sites allow those with opioid use and other substance use disorders to continue using these deadly substances while endangering the surrounding community.
- Safe Injection Sites normalize drug usage and set a standard that a person's addiction is an inevitable fact, rather than setting a higher standard that saves people from overdoses while increasing social functioning and retention in treatment.

### **Opposition Arguments**

- Harm reduction as Safe Injection Sites prevent needle sharing, which can help prevent the transmission of disease, and also reduces drug usage in public.
- Helps prevent overdose deaths as the Safe Injection Sites are monitored and staff are often able to administer naloxone and oxygen to those overdosing.
- Philosophy that not everyone is ready or able to achieve immediate abstinence and Safe Injection Sites offer immediate methods to reduce harm and health risks.