



**Boston City Council**  
**ED FLYNN**  
Councilor - District 2

Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery  
Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate  
24 Beacon St  
Boston, MA 02113

Dear Chairwoman Domb and Chairman Velis,

I am writing in opposition to passing Bill S1393 "An Act Relative to Preventing Overdose Deaths and Increasing Access to Treatment". As the District 2 City Councilor, I represent nearby communities and the area surrounding Mass & Cass. I would like to respectfully convey that any measure to incentivize additional substance use at Mass & Cass will be counterproductive to solving our current public health, public safety, and humanitarian crisis.

It is long past due for the city and state to put wish lists and other pursuits aside to make a recovery campus a top priority. Prior to my election in 2017, I advocated for use of City of Boston Pilot funds to be utilized for a dedicated ferry service to the Long Island Recovery Campus. Moreover, the city did not utilize hundreds of millions of dollars in one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Despite the pleas of residents, civic organizations, and small businesses - we still have not made any headway to open a recovery campus elsewhere in Boston. For years, the city has continued to point to the housing crisis and a housing-first approach to address the situation. In my opinion, that does nothing to address underlying mental and behavioral health or addiction issues from the opioid crisis. Our most vulnerable require a dedicated detox and drug treatment program to recover from the grips of addiction and go on to lead healthy lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Everyday I receive increasingly concerning calls for help from constituents on increasingly alarming public safety and quality of life issues beyond unacceptable public drug dealing, drug use, and needles everywhere - individuals breaking into a family's homes, cares, and trespassing in backyards. On September 4th, I held a hearing on-site at the Hampton Inn where approximately 200 constituents shared their lived experiences.

The answer to this is not incentivizing safe injection, but prioritizing a recovery and treatment first approach to break the grips of addiction. I'm asking you to vote against Bill S1393, and instead work together to make a recovery campus a reality - not only for the most vulnerable in our city and state, but to address the public safety and quality of life of neighbors and small businesses.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn  
Boston City Councilor, District 2