



SWANA[®]
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

SIERRA

GOLDRUSH

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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June 8, 2010

The Honorable Elaine Alquist
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1858 (Blumenfield) Hypodermic needles and syringes: exchange services –
SUPPORT IF AMENDED

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members), is committed to advancing the practices of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste. On behalf of their California Chapters, I am writing in support if amended on AB 1858 (Blumenfield) regarding hypodermic needles and syringes exchange services.

AB 1858 would permit the Department of Public Health (DPH) to authorize clinics, health services organizations, community-based organizations, or other entities to provide hypodermic needle and syringe exchange services in any location where DPH determines that the conditions exist for the rapid spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, or any other potentially deadly or disabling infections that are spread through the sharing of used hypodermic needles and syringes.

SWANA is supportive of the intent of this legislation but it is their feeling that organizations that are allowed to distribute needles and syringes, should also take them back and provide safe methods to transport the products. If distributing organizations were required to take needles and syringes back, this would assist local governments in creating a safer environment for their constituents and those using the needles.

For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA SUPPORTS IF AMENDED AB 1858. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tressa Wallace
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield