

RESOLUTION NO.: 2020 - 02

SUBJECT: Opposition to the Elimination of Local Control Contained in HB20-1065

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 3, 2020

**RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
OPPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF LOCAL CONTROL CONTAINED IN HB20-1065**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 25-1-508, C.R.S., the El Paso County Board of Health (“Board of Health”) has the power and duty to develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community in El Paso County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in Section III of its 2020 Legislative Policy, adopted pursuant to Resolution No. 2019-05 on October 23, 2019, the Board of Health affirmed its support for local control and management of matters of local public health concern and took a position of opposition to any legislation that unnecessarily or adversely affects the Board of Health’s ability to design and manage public health programs and services to meet local public health needs in El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, § 25-1-520, C.R.S. requires the approval of a county or district board of health for the operation of a clean syringe exchange program by a county or district public health agency, a nonprofit organization contracted to provide such a program by a county or district public health agency, or a hospital licensed or certified by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; and


WHEREAS, HB20-1065, currently being considered by the Colorado General Assembly in its 2020 legislative session, contains a section which would strip away the requirement for county or district board of health approval for the operation of a clean syringe exchange program; and


WHEREAS, local boards of health, often overwhelmingly comprised of medical professionals, are uniquely qualified to determine the needs of their communities for harm reduction and disease prevention efforts and to coordinate and commit resources to the evidence-based strategies which will effectively serve those needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health directly serves the citizens of the most populous county in Colorado and objects to any state legislative measure which usurps existing local control of public health programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:
Hereby opposes the current draft of HB20-1065 and urges state lawmakers to amend the bill to remove any provision thereof that eliminates the requirement for county or district board of health approval for the operation of a clean syringe exchange program.

**MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 3, 2020, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.
EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

BY:  James W. Terbush, President, El Paso County Board of Health
President

ATTEST BY:  Susan Wheelan, Director, El Paso County Public Health
Secretary