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February 9, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Attorney General Garland,

I write to express my strongest concerns over the Department of Justice's (DOJ) plans to institute "safe injection sites" for heroin users across the country. Narcotics are pouring across our southern border at unprecedented rates, all the while fentanyl is set to lose its Schedule I classification on your watch. Opioids are ravaging our communities, and it's unthinkable that President Biden's DOJ would even consider introducing safe injection sites for heroin and other controlled substances while the epidemic claims more lives than ever before in our history. This shortsighted, ignorant proposal will do nothing to reverse the devastating impact of the opioid crisis and will perpetuate the cycles of addiction that affects millions of American families each year.

It is the core duty of the DOJ to protect Americans and uphold the rule of law. In January of 2021, the Third Circuit Appellate Court ruled that safe injections sites are illegal to operate under the Controlled Substances Act, which explicitly prohibits anyone from knowingly and intentionally maintaining a designated location for the purpose of illegal drug use. Your next actions will be truly revealing, will you ignore the laws and judicial rulings you find inconvenient in the name of liberal activism, or abide by your oath and faithfully enforce the laws of our great Republic.

The impacts of drug overdoses hit close to home for far too many families in my home state of Texas. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported Texas experienced 4,701 deaths from drug overdoses from June 2020 to June 2021, which represents a 30.1% increase from the previous year. Establishing safe injection sites is an insult to the lasting memories of those whose lives were taken by these despicable substances. We urge you to immediately cease all plans to establish safe injection sites and refocus your efforts on prosecuting the criminals who profit off the death of our loved ones.

The DOJ under your watch is derelict in its duty. It's past time that you live up to the title of the Nation's highest law enforcement official instead of acting as a progressive activist at every juncture.

In God We Trust,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Roger Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Williams" clearly distinguishable.

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress