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**Lundeen Introduces bill to give communities more control over methadone clinics**

Denver – Today, Representative Paul Lundeen, R-Monument, introduced legislation to give local citizens more involvement in the placement of methadone clinics in their community. The legislation aims to reclassify methadone clinics as dispensaries and provides distance protections from schools, parks and other sensitive community locations.

Additionally, the legislation will strengthen the licensing process, allowing the Colorado Department of Human Services to consider infractions or problems that license applicants or their holding companies may have had in other states.

“Heroin and opioid addiction is a serious problem, and while methadone clinics are an important part of addiction treatment, their presence near schools, parks and other sensitive areas can potentially put kids at greater risk to drug exposure and other concerning elements of substance abuse,” said Lundeen. “Communities in Colorado can influence where marijuana dispensaries operate and that same level of community protection should be applied to other drug dispensaries like methadone clinics. My bill stiffens the licensing process for methadone clinics and gives communities more control over where these drug dispensaries can operate.”

Senator Kent Lambert, R-Colorado Springs is the Senate sponsor of the bill and Representative Terri Carver, R-Colorado Springs is a pre-file cosponsor in the House.

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