

Activists Arrested on National Day of Action for Syringe Access

March 21, 2012

Thirteen activists were arrested today after holding a sit-in in the offices of four members of U.S. Congress as part of the National Day of Action for Syringe Access, according to a Housing Works statement. The action day is the first in a series of events to bring attention to the need for exchange programs. Earlier this year, Congress reinstated a ban on federal funding of syringe exchange programs. Advocates say the ban, which was lifted in 2009 after being in place for two decades, undermines public health goals and will only increase rates of HIV and hepatitis C. Activists held the sit-in at the offices of Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Representatives Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.), Mike Rogers (R-Mich.) and Eric Cantor (R-Va.) for their role in re-instating the ban last December.

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