

FROM THE OFFICE OF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE RUTH JONES MCCLENDON

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**Representative McClendon Announces
Request for AG Opinion Filed
for Safe Needle Exchange Pilot Program**

(Austin / San Antonio) – State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon (D-House District 120) announced today that Senator Jeff Wentworth, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee (R-Senate District 25) has submitted an official request to Attorney General Greg Abbott for an opinion on the law creating a disease-control pilot program in Bexar County. The law, which became effective September 1, 2007, authorized operation of a safe needle-exchange outreach effort.

McClendon said, "All of the Bexar County delegation in the Texas Legislature voted for the Omnibus Medicaid Bill containing this pilot program. Since it was a Senate Bill, and since issues have been raised challenging the meaning and effect of this part of the Bill, it is highly appropriate for the Senate Jurisprudence Committee to request this opinion. I want to thank Senator Wentworth publicly for taking the lead on this matter, which truly affects the public at large, the medical community, the courts, and the taxpayers of Bexar County."

