Safe space for drug users will save lives

SACHA FFEIPER’S powerful Globe report (“Overwhelmed by overdoses, clinic offers a room for highs,” Page A1, April 26) on Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program’s new safe space project, where drug users can receive medical monitoring and support while they are high, is a groundbreaking and essential new intervention in treating and helping those whose lives are most at risk from opioids.

Today’s unprecedented opioid crisis requires creative interventions on many fronts. The safe space project is highly innovative for Massachusetts, deeply humane for the individual, and realistic in the kind of new interventions we must consider implementing if we are to get ahead of this epidemic.

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless recognized a major gap in how our state deals with addiction. They acted on that void to create a sound, reasonable, and nonjudgmental medical intervention that unquestionably will save countless lives.

There is no sugarcoating the deadly effects of this substance abuse crisis in our community. I applaud Boston Healthcare for the Homeless for taking the risk and daring to add an essential new choice to a toolbox that includes treatment, health care, prevention, and outreach.

JONATHAN D. SCOTT
Boston

The writer is the president and CEO of Victory Programs, a nonprofit focused on homelessness and substance use disorder treatment.

All populists are not created equal

WHILE APPROPRIATELY castigating the demagogues of 20th-century America, Michael Bloomberg (“Defeat the demagogues,” Opinion, May 4) asserts a specious symmetry of populism on the right and left. While populists on both sides are frustrated with governments — federal and state — that are unresponsive to their needs, equating Donald Trump’s nativism with Bernie Sanders’ democratic socialism ignores real differences. Scapegoating a class of people — illegal immigrants — is poisonous, divisive and ultimately unproductive, but challenging an economic philosophy neoliberalism — which has benefited only the wealthy is the first step toward the creation of governments that work for all. Building a wall on our southern border is not the solution.

The label. For the past 30 years, the Democratic Party has let the poor and working class slip into poverty while doing nothing to prevent the appalling income inequality that exists in our country, the lack of universal health care, falling infrastructure, etc. He had good reason not to back the party that supported Wall Street and millionaires. Meanwhile, Sanders has accused the Democrats consistently and tried to amend many bills so that the poor, the working class, and veterans would be treated more fairly. He has been more of a Democrat, standing up for the principles that used to characterize the party, than the regulars. We need both Sanders and Warren to create the nonviolent revolution that is long overdue.

ANTONIA STECHLER
Lexington

Instead of tip