

To Whom It May Concern,

I can only speak on behalf of myself. I am a senior, single woman, and a 100% disabled vet with a service dog. A year ago, while walking on the beach, a man ran straight toward us and started throwing rocks. He was clearly under some sort of influence- screaming nonsense at me, calling me names, kicking at my dog, and flailing his arms with rocks in his fists. Not only did my finger get broken in the process of blocking the hits, but my service dog went ballistic and I had to fight to hold him back as this guy was screaming he'd sue me! The man finally ran off and, when I reported this to the police, I was informed they couldn't do anything. I was then informed 'next time, let the dog tear him up.' Seriously!!! A guy attacks a woman and her service animal- which is a federal crime- and nothing can be done because the guy is a vagrant on drugs? My pup is a 160lb Aksaray Malaklisi... he wouldn't tear someone up- he would kill them! Then what happens to my dog (who is necessary for my survival) and me?

As a result- not only was I injured and traumatized to the point of needing help, but my dog was nearly ruined. It's documented with the vet as well. It's taken a long time for him not to freak out, is still terrified of the beach, and my fear of him biting someone is real. So we go NO WHERE. All because this man is allowed to not only abuse drugs, but because the police can't/won't do anything about it.

I am a retired hospice nurse- I've seen what drugs do to people and families, and I've also seen how much is a choice- use or get help to stop. If there is no consequence, there is no reason to get help. How many others are placed in danger because of it? How many people need to fear for their safety and their lives because addicts are permitted to do whatever they want?

How many buildings are empty that could house the homeless, provide addiction recovery support, and teach jobs that allow these people to learn to live in society? Our area is inundated with vagrants and addicts now, and it's no longer safe. At the beach, users are leaving syringes on the sand- and homeless are attacking children for coming near their 'spot'. Help these people by giving them the choice to learn to live in society as productive members, even if it's one that requires sobriety/control, or place them in a community among their own kind and allow let to battle their drug habits together.

Thank you,  
C. Hunt