

It is with great urgency that I encourage you to not recriminalize addiction. As the child of two addicts, one who found recovery and one who was only able to find peace in death, I can assure you that the criminalization of addiction in no way kept me safer as a child. I watched by younger brothers father serve over a decade in San Quentin all for alcohol and drug related charges, and upon his release he failed to reintegrate into society and died from an overdose when my brother was four years old. This caused me to have to step up as a co-parent to my younger brother when I was only 12 years old. Had his father not been criminalized for struggling with an illness his story could have been one of inspiration instead of tragedy and my brother wouldn't have had to grow up fatherless. Addiction is an illness. Addiction is not a crime. Please help people receive treatment and don't perpetuate the harm me and my family have experienced from the failed war on drugs.

Thank you,
Sparrow

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