

Submitter: Anthony L  
On Behalf Of: Reasoned Consideration  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response  
Measure: HB4036

Those of us who want the true best thing for people will contend strongly within themselves for the right answer on this topic. From my own personal experience with myself and other people, unrestricted use of drugs is not sustainable because addiction is a strong intrapersonal response to previous trauma. As such, it creates a situation where continued use to quell emotional pain is so important that only the most severe of interventions will create a situation where reflection and treatment are really possible.

A preferable situation would be comprehensive single payer health care which includes addiction treatment. Given that is not likely to happen soon, I believe returning to low level recriminalization of drug possession (misdemeanor) is a suitable intervention for the present time. It also addresses the public's need for safety and accountability, which I think we all expect from society as the highest calling of government. When comprehensive health care is available for all citizens, we can consider decriminalization again.

The truly oppressed person is the one who will not allow oneself the chance to reconsider even one's strongly held beliefs.