

2.5.24

To Sandy Chung:

My name is Michael and I am a prisoner at Oregon State Penitentiary. I am a member of the Asian Pacific Family Club. At a recent meeting we were asked to share our experiences with the criminalization of drugs in our lives. The first time I was arrested was for a felony drug possession when I was 19 years old. At 19 I decided to start getting into the drug trade, I figured now that I got a felony and the degree I was going to college for was no longer viable, plus my back up careers were now out the window because of a felony conviction, why not keep doing drugs. Well after that I turned to crime to make a living I had racked up a few misdemeanors & felonies. By the time I was offered to do treatment for drug addiction I was too far gone & the treatment was 100% designed for you to fail & if you made a mistake - oops back to jail even though you volunteered to make the effort to turn your life around if you make one mistake

then your life is worse than when you started because not only did you not change your life like you needed now your doing even more jail time than when you started.

If I would not have been given a felony for something that the cops just now confiscate and refer you to drug addiction services. ~~for~~ I feel my life would be a lot different now

I hope that the legislators in this state truly cared about the people residing here and give thought to advocating entry level addiction counseling services instead of taking the easy road and just throw everyone in jail who displeases their sensibilities. The world is hard enough as it is.

Thank you for your time

Michael B.