

February 5, 2025

Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you to support House Bill 3009 (HB 3009). The bill would change the definition of “local correctional facility” to include more types of facilities.

Since 2020, I’ve advocated for legislation to fund Addiction Medicine in jails and prisons. I worked with Representative Pam Marsh on the language included in House Bill 4002, and I served on the grant advisory committee created by the bill.

As is often the case with legislation, we realized over time that the legislation omitted some organizations and patient populations. Indeed, I think that organizations providing transition planning services ought to be included. I also think that incarcerated people of all ages, and not just adults, ought to benefit from the jail Substance Use Disorder (SUD) grant funding.

According to a widely cited study by Yale University’s Department of Psychiatry,¹ about 58-68% of incarcerated people have SUD. SUD is a chronic condition that is likely to continue if untreated after release, regardless of how much a person might want to change when they are arrested.

Patients often suffer poor health outcomes when care is interrupted during transitions from one environment to another. This occurs when patients leave hospitals and go home, and when people in custody are released into the community. We can improve their safety by stabilizing them with holistic services that include medications for SUD, counseling, peer support services, housing, and food. If people released from jail or prison lack care during transitions to the community, they risk losing any progress they made. This can have a ripple effect on their families and the local community.

Similarly, helping young people with SUD is crucial to improving public health. SUD has a peak age of onset of 19 years. This means that for years, many people use drugs and alcohol while addiction develops. We would be wise to treat them early when their addictions are often milder, and at a stage in life when they still have the chance to finish high school, begin work, and start families.

I would very much appreciate it if the Committee chose to:

- Support HB 3009; and
- Amend the eligibility for grants to include all ages of people in custody

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,



Moxie Loeffler, DO, MPH, Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine

Addiction and Internal Medicine

Reference:

1) Moore KE, Hacker RL, Oberleitner L, McKee SA. Reentry interventions that address substance use: A systematic review. Psychol Serv. 2020 Feb;17(1):93-101