

Submitter: Janet Rollings

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB3197

As a former substance abuse therapist and now fully licenced and practicing mental health therapist, I have been fortunate enough to see the results of funded (and mandated) treatment for youth who are experiencing behavior problems due to substance abuse. My very first client who was assigned to me in a mandated outpatient treatment program is my shining example of 'why' treatment helps. This young lady had lost her dad just a year plus to my working with her plus experiencing a friend who was murdered around the same time her dad died. She had come into the juvenile justice program due to her substance abuse and some very bad behavior problems. She was not very happy to be 'forced into' substance treatment and counseling 3 days a week. Long story short, she successfully graduated the community program I was working with her through, her mom also was able to receive mental health treatment (also related to grief and family dysfunction), and the girl graduated high school. After a couple of marriages that didn't work out for her, she is now and has been for several years happily married with a very loving and supportive husband, has 3 children she protects and loves fiercely, is home schooling her older kids, has fostered both her ailing uncle until he could get into a higher level of care and then her mom as she went through cancer treatments, and is an active advocate in her neighborhood community for others in need.

Her family didn't have the funds/support to send her to any private treatment facilities and without public assistance/grants this amazing young women would not have gotten the help and support she very badly needed at the time.