

IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF VIRGINIANS! PROTECT OUR CHILDREN! SAVE TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS!

PROBLEMS: **HEALTH CARE COSTS SOARING, UNDERAGE DRINKING IS TOO HIGH AND UNTREATED ADDICTION COSTS EVERYONE MONEY**

- ➔ The range, variety, and capacity of substance abuse services are not adequate to meet the needs of consumers in the majority of Virginia communities.
- ➔ It takes an average of 25.4 days after their first call for persons to enter active treatment at Virginia's CSB substance abuse programs.
- ➔ In Virginia, nearly 90,000 youth have a serious alcohol use problem and almost 85% of those are not receiving any treatment. **Virginia is currently among the highest in the nation in underage alcohol consumption.**
- ➔ The costs of NOT providing treatment continue to mount. In 1998, Virginia spent 11.5% of its budget to remedy the costs of untreated substance abuse.

SOLUTION: *Treatment for substance use disorders is clearly cost-effective health care.*

- ➔ Treating substance use disorders reduces future Medicaid hospitalization costs.
- ➔ Many studies indicate that for every \$1 spent to treat substance use disorders, a savings of \$5 - \$7 will be generated.

SOLUTION: *Treatment and Prevention of substance use disorders is smart public safety and protects our youth.*

- ➔ The longer youth delay initial use of alcohol, the less likely the development of alcohol related problems later in life.
- ➔ Reducing underage drinking will reduce the negative social, health, academic, and economic consequences that accompany substance use disorders.

SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS: *Saving Money, Protecting Our Children, and Improving Health*

- ➔ Provide \$24 million to fund 3,000 consumers, including those with opioid and/or methamphetamine addictions, into recovery with **best practice service package** to include: detox, psychiatric, medication, crisis stabilization, residential treatment, case management, intensive outpatient, and recovery support services.
- ➔ Provide \$1,675,500 to fund 10 unfunded Drug Treatment Court Programs.
- ➔ Provide \$5.5 million to expand Medicaid Mental Health Services to include certain services for substance use disorders including assessment and evaluation, crisis intervention, case management, outpatient treatment, and medical detox.
- ➔ Provide \$2.4 million to fund 40 **evidence-based prevention model programs** to reduce underage alcohol consumption.
- ➔ Provide \$42 million to fund improved access to intensive services for consumers with serious mental illness (SMI) or SMI/Substance Use Disorders (SUD) to promote wellness, recovery, and improved self-management. Services to include crisis stabilization, medication, psychiatric, and intensive and stable residential services.
- ➔ *Support a JLARC study of the actual costs of substance use disorders in the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

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