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Utah State Legislature
350 State St
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Re: House Bill 199 (Substance Use Treatment and Enforcement Amendments)

Dear Legislator:

As a former drug policy advisor to Republican and Democratic Presidents, and also as a scientist who has spent 35 years studying addiction and its treatment, I am writing you to express my support for H.B. 199. The bill proposes multiple sensible reforms that should improve public health and safety in Utah, not just for people who are addicted to drugs but for everyone else as well.

A key premise of the bill is that addicted people are often hard to engage in treatment. Sometimes this is about lack of motivation to change, sometimes it is about unstable life circumstances, sometimes it is about both. Given this reality, we have to use every policy tool at our disposal to promote engagement in the treatment services that can start people on the path to recovery.

The bill pursues this mission in multiple intelligent ways. Contacts between first responders and people who use drugs will be approached as opportunities for treatment engagement. Mobile treatment services will be used to reach neighborhoods that lack services as well as engage in treatment individuals for whom convenient access is a deciding factor. Harm reduction services will be expected to be pathways into treatment and recovery.

Recognizing that many addicted individuals require compassionate pressure to enter treatment and give up substance use, the bill offers a sensible use of therapeutic jurisprudence for drug-addicted criminal offenders. The evidence on drug courts indicates that such initiatives can reduce substance use, re-offending, and incarceration while at the same time respecting the rights and dignity of addicted individuals.

For all these reasons, I respectfully request that you support H.B. 199.

Sincerely,

Keith Humphreys

H.B. 199 SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT & ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENTS



Currently, when law enforcement uses naloxone to reverse a drug overdose, they send them on their way, meaning they go back to using drugs and **risk another potential overdose.**

This bill would provide first responders with a list of **treatment services** to give to someone who overdoses.

603

UTAHNS DIED OF A DRUG
OVERDOSE IN 2023,
WITH THE MAJORITY
FROM FENTANYL

H.B. 199 blends enforcement of the law with opportunities for people who are suffering from drug addictions to find healing.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ✓ Places restrictions on syringe exchange programs and prohibits supervised drug consumption sites.
- ✓ Targets illicit drug houses in residential neighborhoods and improves Utah's ability to combat nuisance properties.
- ✓ Expands and strengthens civil nuisance laws to include all drug fumes, not just tobacco.

RECOVERY OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Provides first responders with a list of local treatment services they can provide to someone following an overdose reversal.
- ✓ Allows a treatment provider to operate a mobile unit to provide substance use medication.
- ✓ Clarifies the role of harm-reduction programs to ensure pathways to recovery.