

Illinois Psychiatric Society
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Chicago, Illinois 60611
312/224-2600

A District Branch of the
American Psychiatric Association

The Honorable Patrick Quinn
Governor of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

June 16, 2009

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing on behalf of the Illinois Psychiatric Society (IPS), a state-wide organization of over 1,100 psychiatrists. We urge you to reconsider the reductions imposed by SB 1197. This budget, if enacted, will completely eliminate addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services. While this action, in the short term, will seem to save the State money, in the long run, it will end up costing the State much more than it saves in increased medical expenses, law enforcement and correctional expenditures.

Effective addiction treatment saves the State money. The savings to individual citizens' lives is inestimable. For every dollar spent on quality treatment, studies show a return of \$12.00 or more in reduced substance-related crime, criminal justice and health care costs. Addictive disorders account for illness in over 10% of the American population during the total course of their life. Failure to provide these funds results in preventable accidents, homicides, suicides, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assaults, unplanned pregnancies, homelessness, foregone educations, STDs, birth defects and more than 70 illnesses requiring hospitalization. For example, many people with addictions end up in the emergency room with a variety of issues. Emergency room care is the least cost effective treatment available. In addition, failure to treat addiction and particularly alcoholism early means that the costs will be much greater later as the patient develops the consequences of their lifetime of addiction such as liver ailments necessitating liver transplants.

We urge you to do whatever is necessary to restore State funding for addiction treatment. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director, Meryl Sosa, at 312-224-2601 or msosa@ilpsych.org.

Sincerely,



Lisa Rone, M.D.
President, Illinois Psychiatric Society

Cc: John Potts, Illinois Strategies