

Melissa Sweet

Health Policy 12/2/21

From: Carmen Johnson <cjohnson@lcministries.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Comments SB637/638

To: The House Committee on Health Policy
From: Life Challenge of Southeastern Michigan
Re: SB 637/638

Dear Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

Life Challenge of Southeastern Michigan is a one-year faith based residential program for individuals who struggle with addiction. The organization has been in the Detroit area for over 50 years and functions under the supervision of Adult and Teen Challenge USA.

As an organization we support the concept of jail diversion for individuals who struggle with addiction. "Help not Handcuffs" is a concept that we heartily endorse. However, we want to ensure that the following questions are answered in the new legislation:

1. How is the funding disbursed? Community Mental Health organizations work well in some communities but not in others. How will it be equitably disbursed to organizations doing the work in the community?
2. Will there be limits on the volume of drugs in possession of those slated for diversion? We want to help the addict but not the dealer.
3. How many times is jail diversion offered? Is there a limit to how many times a person can be eligible for the program?

We heartily support jail diversion and thanks the senators for bringing this issue to the table. It is long overdue. Please support SB 637 and SB 638.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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