



The Honorable Representative Thomas P. Gannon, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
House of Representatives
49 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Gannon,

On behalf of the Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania (DASPOP), I am writing to urge support for HB 809 including the amendments proposed by the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association.

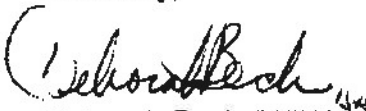
DASPOP is a statewide coalition of drug and alcohol prevention and treatment programs, practitioners, employee assistance programs and drug and alcohol associations representing more than 365 organizations, programs and clinics, over 3,000 certified addiction professionals, 1,200 student assistance professionals, 400 prevention specialists and others throughout the state.

Studies done in this area of inquiry demonstrate addiction rates among criminal justice populations ranging from a low of 70% to highs over 90%. The rate of addiction is quite high but so unfortunately is denial of the problem by the addicted individual.

For this reason, the bill before you offers an important additional tool to address criminal recidivism through provision of effective addiction treatment.

Given the realities of addiction and denial, servicing some time in jail before entering an addiction treatment program can be clinically helpful.

Sincerely,


Deborah Beck, MSW
President of DASPOP

May 18, 1999

Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania
A subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Chemical Abuse Certification Board

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