

*O'Brien*

House Bills 4, 5, 6 -- A Plan To Protect the Public

We need a long-range, comprehensive approach.

There's no silver bullet – no single bill will solve the problem.

In fact, legislation is just one part of a larger solution.

Whole communities have to get involved.

That includes:

Schools

Drug and alcohol specialists

Law enforcement

Prisons and the probation system

Employers

Community groups

House Bill 4 is an important cornerstone of the approach.

Remove the most dangerous offenders from county jails.

Free up needed space in Philadelphia jails for pre-trial detention and parole violators

Put dangerous criminals in state prisons where they get help with literacy, drug and alcohol, GED

Offer incentives for inmates to gain skills while in state prison

Result is ex-offenders who are less likely to re-offend.

Intensive follow-up after release. Public safety is paramount.

Invest resources in preventing repeat offenses

Successful outcomes achieved by agencies working together, across boundaries.