



June 16, 2019

Via Email: mcortez@pasen.gov

Michael Cortez, Executive Director and Counsel, Judiciary Committee at Senate of Pennsylvania

RE: Senate Judiciary Hearing associated with Justice Reinvestment Initiative Legislation/Probation & Parole

Dear Michael:

On behalf of PAPAID, an organization whose members have had children killed by DUI offenders, I am offer written testimony in addition to participation at the upcoming hearing on June 26th on the topic of Probation, Parole and Treatment.

Many of our families, including our own, have lost a child to a repeat DUI offender who required treatment as part of prior DUI offenses, only to turn around and re-offend.

In summary, our group interprets the proposed legislation as an attempt to move away from incarceration for “non- violent” offenders based on a premise that incarceration does not reduce recidivism, and that in many cases treatment will be the alternative strategy for reducing recidivism. Although our group is not averse to this approach, we do believe that the PA must address the existing material shortcomings related to treatment. This includes inadequate oversight/accountability of both the industry and individual treatment providers, as well as poor data collection/measurement of treatment outcome and recidivism from counties across the Commonwealth. If PA does not address the current state of treatment, our belief and fear is that this legislation will accomplish little and only increase recidivism including “non-violent” repeat DUI offenders who will kill and injure innocent victims similar to our children.

I have attached a PowerPoint document that provides supporting information related to the current state of treatment in PA as well as recommendation to expand the use of DUI Treatment Courts in PA as part of any proposed legislation.

Thank you.

Chris Demko
Co-Founder of PAPAID