

Dear Committee Members.

I would like to explain why I support this bill. Many who know me also know that when it comes to passing new laws I am very conservative and believe that less is more. On its surface this bill seems to create more not less. However as I thought about this bill and paid a bit of attention to its development I realized that this bill is a very good step toward creating less dependency, more hope and more freedom for a lot of people who are most in need of all of these things.

Deeply rooted in American and western culture is the doctrine of helping those in need. Because this is so deeply and wonderfully ingrained in our culture legislative bodies have unintentionally harmed those they set out to help. The root of that problem lies in forgetting that the proper role of government is to protect inalienable rights of all citizens as they compete to provide good and services. When government moved from that protective role into a provider role it changed the system from one where people compete to ~~be the best~~ serve to one where people compete for victim hood. Instead of your neighbor being a potential customer he becomes an enemy who ~~is~~ out to take advantage of you or some other unfortunate person or group. ~~And~~ there are plenty of power hungry, bad intentioned people who love to take advantage of the divisiveness we have created.

I think a lot of people in America from all parties have realized the seriousness of this mistake. We have a lot of spoiled, divisive citizenry who not only have little understanding of the value of competing to serve but lack the hope and confidence to try. Many of these become so immersed in their victim hood and so overcome with hopelessness that they turn to substance abuse.

So how do we ~~get~~ turn the clock back? How do we get back to being a government of protectors instead of providers without triggering a major temper tantrum?

We do this by giving those that need it a little encouraging nudge in the right direction. I did not like this bill in its original form because I wondered if it was force (which breeds resentment) and not a nudge with help and hope offered for those who want it and just don't know quite where to go, or who to trust to get help.

The bill in its present form has that better balance and offer hope and incentive to those who want it and need it and a consequence to those whose substance abuse has deteriorated to the point where they have harmed others. I encourage you to pass this bill.

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