

SB 321, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act

Sponsored by Representative Moe Maestas and Senator Richard Martinez

Treatment Instead of Incarceration

Statistics show a legal option for treatment instead of incarceration (for first time, non-violent, drug offenses) is more effective and less costly than our current practice of criminalizing substance users. Young Women United believes this to be a smart policy for stronger families and healthier communities.

Young Women United recently held a community strategy session. These are the messages our families want you to hear:

Addiction affects family

- Substance users are our parents, our sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters, our aunts and uncles.
- Incarceration doesn't make addiction go away, users need treatment.
- 88% of incarcerated women are behind bars for non-violent drug offenses, a majority of those women have lived through sexual violence.
- Leaving untreated addiction in families and communities leads to more cycles of poverty, violence, and addiction, this legislation will make communities safer and healthier.

Treatment is more effective than incarceration

- Treatment costs less than incarceration.
- Treatment provides support, education and teaching of life skills, incarceration does not do that.
- Learning how to live requires being around those who can show you living on a daily basis, this can't happen in jail.

Addiction is a Dis-ease

- Addiction is not a criminal act, our families are sick and need resources.
- Families and Community care about addiction, we want to heal but don't have the tools.

Support SB321, Decriminalize the Dis-ease of Addiction

To hear more about this issue from Young Women United, contact Micaela Cadena at 575.644.5830 or mcadena@youngwomenunited.org



Young Women United is a community organizing project by and for young women of color in Albuquerque. YWU believes the voices and leadership of young women of color carry the power to create better communities for all people.

We believe in creating healthier ways to live, work, play, and pray!

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