

TESTIMONY
SB 2341 – HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE DEKREY, CHAIRMAN
MARCH 8, 2005

Chairman DeKrey, members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Director of the Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse for the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide information regarding the Drug & Alcohol Commission's Mandatory Treatment bill.

The Department of Human Services supports the concepts of this legislation but takes a neutral position on the bill, as the funding is not contained in the executive budget.

This bill is a result of collaboration within the Drug and Alcohol commission. This pilot will direct people who have first time felony drug offenses to treatment and uses leveraged coercion. Leveraged coercion provides the offender the choice to engage in treatment or face loss of freedom and can be an extremely effective way to jump-start the process of illness management and recovery.

The combination of mandated treatment through this bill and anticipated grant funding obtained through the Substance Abuse/Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Targeted Capacity methamphetamine treatment grant submitted in February by the Department of Human Services provides an opportunity to develop a robust treatment continuum. The grant's treatment concept is based on research and will wrap services around clients to address the issues bringing them to treatment. This includes structured living, vocational support, childcare, and parent training as examples. The approach places strong emphasis on

decreasing medical and social costs of methamphetamine/amphetamine use. The grant will increase residential treatment bed capacity which provides a safe environment prior to treatment during the detoxification stage and after primary treatment to assist in adopting a drug free lifestyle. This grant's efforts plus the additional judiciary and legislative tools available through this bill will support implementation of a flexible treatment continuum positioned to provide elements of effective treatment: right time, right place, right intensity, right length. The opportunity at hand will maximize state dollars and grant efforts. Outcomes captured in the effort will provide guidance for future treatment direction.

I am available to answer any questions. Thank you.