



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

August 15, 2003

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Executive Director

The Honorable John Vasconcellos
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 519

Dear Senator Vasconcellos:

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 519, the measure you have authored regarding drug treatment for parolees of the California Youth Authority who have been charged with non-violent drug possession. The Commission supports this measure for two reasons: drug treatment is the most efficacious response to drug use and it is cost-effective.

The Commission basis its support on findings and recommendations in its March 2003 report, *For Our Health & Safety: Joining Forces to Defeat Addiction*. In its study, the Commission examined the need for substance abuse treatment services and what the State could do to more effectively and efficiently meet its goals for providing treatment.

The Commission found the most effective way to respond to drug use and addiction is treatment. It found the potential so great that it declared the ultimate goal for the State should be to ensure quality treatment for everyone who could benefit. The Commission concluded that intervening in the lives of youth using drugs is a good investment. It raises the probability that they will not continue toward substance abuse and addiction and it allows them to continue their development, socialization, and education.

Because SB 519 is a cost-effective measure and provides drug treatment opportunities for at-risk youth, the Commission is taking an active support position on the bill. As the bill moves through the committee process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you feel my presence and testimony at a hearing would be helpful, please let me know, and I will make every attempt to be available.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James P. Mayer
Executive Director

c: All Commissioners