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Contact: Mark Fontaine
Work: 850-878-2196/850-509-7907 Cell

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR ADULTS DRASTICALLY REDUCED IN SENATE BUDGET

If the budget released yesterday by the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriations is implemented, over 37,000 adults across the state will lose access to substance use disorder treatment. In practical terms, this means all detoxification, residential and outpatient care funded with state general revenue will disappear. This proposed cut reduces adult substance abuse treatment by 27%. In addition over 2,228 Floridians working in community businesses will lose their jobs. The Subcommittee is recommending elimination of all GR for adult substance abuse - \$27.2 million.

Addiction touches every community and every family across Florida. Adults in need of substance abuse treatment are fathers, mothers, parents, brothers and sisters. Addiction knows no boundaries – adults in every city, across every culture, across every socio-economic group, every race, every age group, and every religion are affected by the consequences of addiction.

Drug treatment is a sound investment. The consequences of untreated addiction cost the taxpayers more in child welfare expenses, medical care, and prison costs than the cost of treatment. The math is simple - the average cost for drug treatment per adult is \$2,400 versus:

- \$53,000 for the same person going to prison; today 52% of adults in treatment presently have criminal justice involvement
- \$10,000 annually per child removed from a home due to their parents neglect as a result of addiction; 46% in treatment have dependent children and 50-80% of youth in child welfare have parents with a substance abuse problem
- \$8,500 in annual medical, hospital and emergency room costs are offset as a result of treatment; \$1 in substance use disorder treatment offsets \$2 to \$3.50 in medical costs
- \$1.4 million for the lifetime costs for a substance exposed newborn

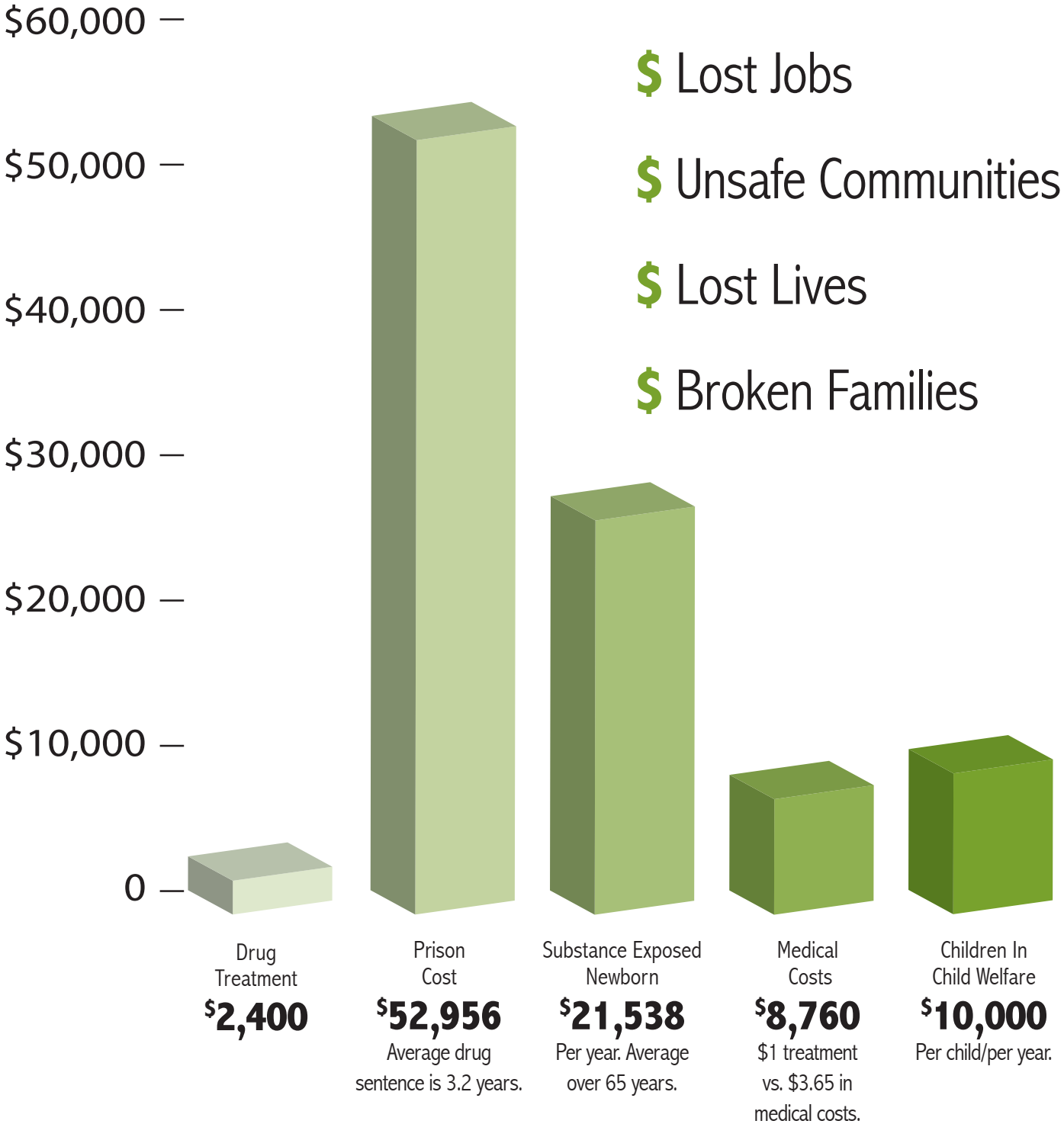
Cutting treatment today will immediately result in Florida paying more tomorrow for the cost of untreated addiction. “Drug treatment works – it is a wise investment of state dollars. We know the consequences of untreated addiction will cost the state more in other areas,” says Mark Fontaine of the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

The budget crisis is not the only crisis Florida is facing - Florida is in the throes of a prescription drug epidemic. The number of individuals who have entered treatment due to narcotics has increased by 452% in the past 10 years. Treatment admissions into DCF-funded services for prescription drug abuse have increased 70% since FY05-06. The number of drug addicted babies continues to grow – approximately 2 babies a day in Florida are born substance exposed. Seven Floridians a day are dying from this epidemic. Florida cannot afford to cut substance abuse treatment at the same time the demand for treatment is increasing. Wise counsel suggests now is not the time to reduce these critical state resources.

The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association is an advocacy organization that represents more than 120 community-based substance abuse treatment and prevention service providers throughout Florida as well as over 3,000 individual members .

Substance Abuse Treatment is a Sound Investment

Continue Investment or Pay Tomorrow





10 REASONS TO FUND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER TREATMENT

- IT MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE -

- **Treatment is Cheaper than the Consequences**
 - \$2,400 for treatment vs. \$52,956 for prison
 - \$2,400 for treatment vs. \$10,000 per child annually in child welfare system
 - \$2,400 for treatment vs. \$1.4 million lifetime cost for substance exposed newborn
- **Treatment Works** - 58% Individuals Receiving Treatment are Successful - A better record than other chronic health diseases
- **Treatment is not a Revolving Door** - 77% in treatment have only one contact in 12 months
- **Treatment is Cost Efficient** – each \$1 in State GR generates \$2 additional in federal block grant funds and local match
- **Treatment Reduces Medical Expenses** – Every \$1 spent on treatment saves \$2.00 to \$3.65 in additional medical-related costs
- **Treatment Reduces Crime** – Studies report 40-60% reduction
- **Treatment Supports Local Jobs** – 69% of adults are employed post treatment
- **Treatment Employs Local Citizens** in over 16,650 jobs statewide – doctors, nurses, counselors and administrative staff who work at local businesses
- **Treatment Supports Local Economy** – over 6,429 vendors supply community treatment companies
- **85% of Those Currently in Treatment do not Qualify for Medicaid;** of those who do qualify, 56% need a substance abuse treatment service Medicaid does not cover

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