

I have a son who is recovering from the disease of addiction. He was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. He has been unable to manage money in ten years. He chooses women who also have mental health issues. Due to his addiction he has lost his license, four jobs and ultimately temporary loss of custody of his son. . He made four ER visits and was either discharged or he was unwilling to be hospitalized. It seemed certain that he would die. He had been arrested three times in three months and was facing incarceration . With heroin raging through his system, he chose to be admitted to a rehab center. He has been home and sober for three months. I believe that no one suffering from the disease of addiction should be incarcerated, rather they should be ordered to treatment.. It raises anxiety and lowers an already low self-esteem when incarcerated. I believe Connecticut should establish drug courts such as those in Massachusetts where they have benefitted from a lower cost and recidivism rate. Finally, charging young people with a felony that they committed in an altered state makes it impossible to gain employment. The ability to support oneself is healthy. Without work the individual most likely will fall into depression, isolation and be more likely to relapse, I believe the recommendations by Governor Malloy should be implemented since everyone deserves a second chance. Nancy Maroney from North Haven and a retired school psychologist