

NON-PUNITIVE RANDOM STUDENT DRUG TESTINGProtect The Kids. Protect The Nation.

By Roger Morgan

Illicit drugs are killing 3,600 Americans monthly just from overdose. The last time the federal government tallied all drug related deaths in 1995, overdose was only 27% of the total. If true today, that equates to 2,750 deaths weekly; one every 4 minutes. 9.4% of the adult population is dependent on alcohol and drugs, which cost the other 90.6% of the population roughly \$468 billion per annum. (CASA – 1995 figures). 6.1 million children are being raised by their grandparents or foster parents. In 2005 local governments alone spent over \$93 billion (2009 CASA study Shoveling Up) on substance abuse, 96% on justice, health, welfare, education, child/family assistance and mental health ... *and only 1.9% on prevention and treatment combined.* This is horrible economic policy, and cause for a taxpayer revolt.

Prevention of the problem of substance abuse requires that action be taken before the problem begins: with kids. Almost all those who die or destroy their lives from addiction start between age 11 and 17, on average at age 13. Schools, with parental support, can help prevent it from happening with the same tool that largely stopped drug use in the military, transportation industry and work place: *non-punitive random drug testing*, primarily using hair testing, which has a 90 day window of detection. Fear of detection by parents is the biggest reason adults and young people don't do drugs. Peer pressure is the biggest reason they do. Random drug testing helps in both cases. Protecting people and managing tax dollars are two of the most important responsibilities of all elected officials, from the federal government to the school boards. It is time to acknowledge that parents alone cannot protect children from a \$500 billion illicit drug trade, along with the alcohol and tobacco companies, that are focused on their destruction. Protective policies aimed at reducing the demand for alcohol and drugs by children must be implemented, if ever we are to reduce the painful impact on society, the huge death rate and the \$700 billion to \$1trillion annual cost to taxpayers resulting from alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse.

We cannot continue to spend 99% of our resources interdicting supply and mopping up the destruction from drug and alcohol abusers and expect any different result. The simplistic answer to curbing this problem is to *get children to adulthood prior to first significant use, where research has shown they should virtually never have a problem.*

Not only do the lives of our children depend on it, but so also does the future of our country.

Protect the Kids! Protect The Nation!

Take Back America Campaign. www.TBAC.us. (619) 895-6475 Info@TBAC.us