

Gov. Christie: Addiction Is An Illness And It's Something We Can Beat

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)



Gov. Christie: Addiction Is An Illness And It's Something We Can ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NleSfr_uz0g&feature=youtu.be

Transcript:

Governor Christie: Today, I'm asking you to join me in doubling down on our state's fight against drug addiction. There are few things that I've worked on harder as Governor or that I believe in as strongly as this. Drug addiction, just like cancer, is an illness. It can strike anyone, from any station in life. We're talking about people who could be my son or daughter - people who could be your kids, your husbands, your wives. There but for the grace of God go each and every one of us. Addiction is an illness and it's something we can beat.

...

To reclaim more lives, four years ago I also stood in this chamber and called for us to fundamentally change the way we treat nonviolent criminals who are in the thralls of the disease of addiction. Through the reforms we delivered, like mandatory drug court, we have a smaller prison population today. Today, this smaller population gives me the ability and the opportunity to announce something extraordinarily exciting and unique across the country. We are closing a traditional state prison. Through the efforts of all of us, our population is down enough that we have closed Mid-State Prison. Today, it stands empty as testimony to this Administration's work in reducing crime and recidivism. So the question is- what do we do with Mid-State Prison? I propose today that we re-open Mid-State Prison as a fully dedicated, fully certified drug abuse treatment facility for all of New Jersey's prison inmates. The victims of addiction deserve treatment, whether they're in the community or they're incarcerated. If we can break the cycle of addiction anywhere, we should break it. So I've directed Commissioner Lanigan of the Department of Corrections and Commissioner Connolly of the Department of Human Services to implement the first licensed substance abuse treatment program at the Mid-State Correctional Facility. Next year it will re-open for its new mission. We are doing

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this because every life, every life is a precious gift from God. We must give all our citizens the chance to reclaim that precious gift from god. To reclaim their own lives, or the lives of their family.

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