

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION COUNSELING... WHY LICENSURE, WHY NOW?

How long can California afford not to license Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors?

- Substance abuse and addiction cost taxpayers over \$140 billion in annual health care costs. 45% of emergency room visits are alcohol-related. 80% of patients in special units like burn centers have injuries related to alcohol use.
- There is no requirement for education, training or experience to be an alcohol and drug abuse counselor in California in private practice (26 states, including CO, TX, MT, OH, NV, AZ, AZ, NJ, MA, VA, TN, MN require licensure).
- **Drug-related deaths have more than doubled since the early 1980s. There are more deaths, illness, and disabilities from substance abuse than from any other preventable health condition. Today, one in four deaths is attributable to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use.**
- 26 people died in licensed facilities for addiction treatment in California in 2003 alone (a 60% increase from 2002).
- Alcohol or other drug abusers are three and one-half times more likely to be involved in a workplace accident and five times more likely to file a worker's compensation claim.
- Prop 36 clients are mandated to treatment from "counselors" with no qualifications or experience. Law enforcement groups **have supported** licensure so that offenders receive real treatment.
- A Fortune 100 company found that its average annual medical costs for employees with substance abuse problems dropped from \$2,068 to \$165 after the employees began substance abuse treatment programs.
- California voters and the federal government have created a vast treatment system with no requirements for those providing the services within it—how long will we keep paying the bill for services that can't even be defined?

From meth lab clean up, to overrun emergency rooms, to increased incarceration rates, the cost of poor addiction treatment impacts every taxpayer in California. Every degree of accountability that is added to our treatment system saves resources, tax dollars and lives. California can no longer afford to ignore its Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment system crisis.



"Passage of this legislation will allow California to provide a statewide continuum of care encompassing the private and public sectors. It will maximize taxpayer's investments for treatment services and will help to reduce offender recidivism. Ultimately, this legislation will increase public and consumer safety."

**-Bob Tyler, President,
CAADAC**

**Support AB 1367, save
lives, prevent tragedies!**