

From: John Green
To: [Senate State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Tasha Elizarde](#)
Subject: Support for Sobriety Awareness Month
Date: Monday, March 26, 2018 4:05:32 PM

Dear Rep. Sponholz and Committee Members,

I would like to voice my support for March being named as Sobriety Awareness Month.

As you may know, my daughter Kellsie was addicted to heroin and died on January 10, 2016 while detoxing in the Anchorage jail.

Kellsie knew the struggle trying to overcome addiction. She shared with me, and I witnessed the immense amount of strength that it takes to overcome addiction and the challenges that each person faces each day in recovery. Not just from the outside world, but the battle that wages within. It truly is a battle that most of us can't comprehend and it is waged one day at a time. Every day.

Kellsie was not able to win her war but, nonetheless I have a deep respect for what it took in the times she was clean. And an understanding of what took her back.

Since her death, Kellsie has introduced me to many people in recovery. God has blessed me with a new found respect and deep appreciation for those that are winning the battle. And a special respect for the many in recovery that are paying it forward and paving the way to sobriety for so many.

Last Easter I was honored to attend an Easter service in Eagle River with Governor Walker and Commissioner Dean Williams. And most importantly, a group of women from Highland Correctional that had completed the recovery program there. I felt honored to be in their presence and couldn't help but see my daughter, Kellsie, in each of them. They represented the hope that I had for her.

There is a stigma that doesn't allow proper recognition to those that have overcome addiction and have rebuilt their futures in spite of their past. Those I have met in their recovery are among the most compassionate and strongest people I have ever met.

It is high time that we recognize their accomplishment and allow their strength and stories to help to remove the stigmas that surround addiction.

It is fitting that March is the month of Kellsie's birth.

Thank you for this opportunity to add my voice. Recognizing sobriety will go a long way towards spreading hope for the many that are still reaching out their hand for help while acknowledging those in recovery that so often reach out their hand to help.

Sincerely,

John Green