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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of HB2070
March 9, 2023**

Chair Warren and Committee Members,

Our associations support HB2070 proposing to allow certain people committing low-level nonperson felonies to be allowed to participate in certified drug abuse treatment programs. It is well established that a significant number of offenders committing low-level nonperson felonies are compelled to engage in those crimes to support their addiction. Treating that addiction in certain circumstances is the right approach in many of those cases. The bill appears to have adequate safeguards requiring the court to consider the potential of jeopardizing public safety based on the history and other facts before the court.

We believe this is a reasonable step to rehabilitating some low level felons engaging in their crimes primarily due to their drug addiction.

We support this approach.

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