



**2021 NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY and SENATE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, and RECOVERY
CANDIDATE SURVEY**

I. General Views on Alcohol and Drug Disorders Policies to Address Stigma

Alcohol and drug disorders have only recently become recognized as chronic diseases, much like diabetes or hypertension. Yet the stigma associated with them continues to persist and often prevents people from seeking the treatment they need, contributing to disease severity and adding huge costs to public programs.

Indicate which principles (if any) you agree with regarding your general views of alcohol and drug addiction (Substance Use Disorder) and recovery policies to address behavioral health issues by placing a check mark next to the letter(s) that correspond with your opinions.

a) Substance Use Disorders are preventable, treatable, chronic diseases and are as diagnosable/treatable as diabetes, asthma and hypertension.

b) Addiction is a matter of will. Government assistance is warranted, but ultimately, recovery is the individual's choice.

c) I would support sufficient funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to those who need them.

d) The criminal code (Title 2C) should be examined as to whether the state's drug laws ought to be re-worked

e) Other _____

II. NJ Policy Perspective and the NJ Harm Reduction Coalition released a report over the summer, recommending the elimination of criminal penalties for low-level possession/use and sales of all drugs. Which best represents your view?

a) I would support the decriminalization of all low-level drug use, possession and sales

b) I would support the decriminalization of all low-level drug use/possession, but not sales

c) I do not support the decriminalization of all possession/use of drugs

d) Undecided, would like to learn more

e) Other _____



III. I would support any, or all, of the following initiatives if they could be demonstrated to get and keep people in long-term recovery.

___ a) Continued criminal record expungement reform

___ b) Tax credits for employers who hire people in recovery

___ c) Enhanced financial aid and program assistance to communities disparately impacted by the War on Drugs

d) Reduction of court-ordered fees and fines for individuals who successfully complete a treatment or diversion program

e) Expanded use of peer recovery support services

___ f) Other _____

IV. In the past year, drug overdoses have dramatically increased. Naloxone (brand name – NARCAN) is an opioid antidote that can reverse an overdose. I would support adequate government funding in order to expand the use of naloxone. Check all that apply:

___ a) Mandating every pharmacy maintain a minimum supply of naloxone

___ b) On public transportation

___ c) In public libraries

___ d) On college and university campuses

___ e) In homeless shelters

f) Authorize EMT's to dispense naloxone

___ g) Mandate a supply of naloxone in other public spaces, e.g. stadiums, theaters, arenas, etc.

h) Other Provide legal indemnification to any business or organization that maintains a stock of Narcan and its USG.

V. On an attached page, in seventy-five (75) words or less, please explain any other legislative priorities you will have regarding the prevention, treatment of and recovery from addictive illnesses if elected.

NCAAR QUESTIONNAIRE 2021

Assemblyman Erik Peterson, LD 23

I believe the best and most effective way to reduce substance addiction and abuse is developing a comprehensive drug prevention program for students K-12 and to fight against the legalization of drugs for “recreational use”. As a father of four children, I have seen first hand the effectiveness of the elementary school level anti-smoking campaign has been with my kids’ generation. Unfortunately, those who seek to profit from addiction have been able to convince the legislature, Governor Murphy and the people of New Jersey to surrender the high ground of prevention and to legalize highly addictive genetically modified marijuana. The legalization of marijuana has sent a message to our kids that drugs are safe and non-addictive. Now, the same people profiteers of misery are organizing to decriminalize and eventually legalize cocaine and heroine. I voted against the legalization of marijuana and will vote against the legalization of any other highly addictive drug.

EP
8/25/21



CANDIDATE MUST SIGN SURVEY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE

Candidate Name: ERIK Peterson
(please print)

Candidate Signature: 

District: 23

Party: Republican

Date: 8/25/21