

Dear Senator Vitale:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of New Jersey regarding the recent and concerning issue regarding the availability of youth and young adult long-term residential substance use disorder beds in the state. I have become aware of this issue having read several articles regarding the state's opioid crisis in New Jersey and the lack of open programs as a result of the state's failure to prioritize its most vulnerable youths. While I can fully understand that, for certain adolescents, in home and in community care is beneficial, I am certain that it is not the answer for all adolescents struggling with substance use issues. Surely, many of the children of New Jersey continue to be in need of residential substance use treatment and we, as concerned citizens of this state, would like families to continue to have this option for their children.

I'm aware that many adolescent residential facilities have had to close their doors due to the State's intervention, or more transparently lack of intervention. I am also aware that Daytop New Jersey is the last provider in our entire state that provides specialty substance use disorder treatment in a residential setting to adolescents and young adults and the only remaining provider with a long history of success and expertise in this area for over 25 years.

I am writing to you to voice my concern that the youth and young adults of New Jersey in need of residential care for substance use treatment deserve to have the opportunity to opt for this level of treatment. I would ask that you, Senator Vitale, in your capacity reach out, intervene and make a difference in this matter before all doors for this care are closed to our children in New Jersey.

Sincerely,