



**2023 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

Substance use disorders are chronic conditions, much like diabetes or hypertension. Yet the stigma associated with them continues to persist and often prevents people from seeking and receiving the treatment and services they need, contributing to the severity of the disorder and adding huge costs to public programs.

Indicate which principles (if any) you agree with regarding your general views of substance use disorder and recovery policies by placing a check mark next to the letter(s) that correspond with your opinions.

a) Substance use disorders are preventable, treatable, chronic medical conditions and are as diagnosable/treatable as diabetes, asthma and hypertension.

b) Substance use disorder is a matter of will. Government assistance is warranted, but ultimately, recovery is dependent on the individual's choices.

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

d) The criminal code (Title 2C) should be examined to identify and rethink stigmatizing and ineffective drug policies.

e) Other _____

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

a) I would support the decriminalization of possession of drugs for personal use and sales. *

Decriminalizing Sales - reserve a position until certain proposal is reviewed.



- b) I would support the decriminalization of possession of drugs for personal use, but not sales.
- c) I do not support the decriminalization of personal possession/use or sales of drugs.
- d) Undecided, would like to learn more.
- e) Other _____

III. I would support the following initiatives if they are demonstrated to facilitate and improve access to recovery for individuals with substance use disorder:

- 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) Investment in community-based outreach teams.
- f) Housing First programs with a harm reduction philosophy for those with substance use disorder
- g) Expanded use of peer recovery support services.
- h) Other _____

IV. Drug overdoses continue to be a major public health concern. New Jersey has implemented life-saving programs to ensure access to naloxone, syringe exchange, and harm reduction



centers. I would support adequate government funding to expand the accessibility and use of harm reduction practices. Check all that apply:

- a) Mobile vans for safe supply distribution
- b) Expansion of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder programs in high-need areas
- c) Vending machines for harm reduction supplies
- d) Overdose Prevention Centers
- e) Drop-In Centers equipped with showers, meals, and social services
- f) All drug testing supplies (i.e xylazine test strips, etc.)
- g) Other _____

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.

CANDIDATE MUST SIGN SURVEY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE

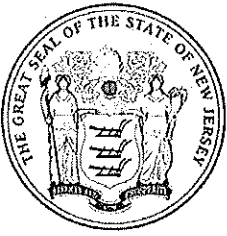
Candidate Name: Aura K. Dunn (please print)

Candidate Signature: Aura K. Dunn

District: LD 25

Party: Republican

Date: September 14, 2023



Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn, LD-25 On The Issues: Mental Health

NCAAR for Behavioral Health Statement:

I served on the Morris County Mental Health Addictions Services Advisory Board. Since taking office in 2019, I have made mental health a top priority of my legislative agenda and will continue to do so as a New Jersey legislator. Below are a few of my mental & behavioral health related legislation from this session.

Legislative Session 2022-2023

Author

- **A347:** Requires DCF and DOE to provide certain child abuse and neglect services or information remotely or through distance learning mechanisms.
- **A367:** Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for suicidal ideation and attempted suicide for postpartum women.
- **A359:** Establishes Mental Health Awareness Pilot Program in DOE.
- **A357:** Requires Adjutant General of DMVA create program for veterans to receive evaluation and treatment for PTSD and total brain injury.
- **A3570:** Requires DHS to provide psychiatric service dogs to first responders, health care workers, and other frontline workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Sponsor:

- **A3698:** Establishes loan redemption program and gross income tax credit for mental health professionals who serve children and adolescents.
- **A3700:** Requires school psychologists and school counselors to complete mental health first aid training.
- **A230:** Establishes tuition reimbursement program for certain advance practice nurses who provide mental health care services in underserved areas in New Jersey.
- **A1144:** Require annual suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

Co-Sponsor:

- **A660:** Establishes pilot program to create student mental health assistance programs in selected school districts.
- **A998:** Establishes Crisis Response Support Program to make mental health services available to police departments responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2,000,000. (P.L.2022, c.36)
- **A1141:** Requires health insurance coverage for annual mental health screening.
- **A1924:** Requires health insurance carriers to categorize mental health treatment and therapy received by victim of domestic violence as medically necessary treatment and provide full benefits coverage therefore.

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