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Subject: Prop 36 is bad policy
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While the Los Angeles Times newspaper publishes an editorial OPPOSING Proposition 36, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 today in support of Prop. 36. Thanks to Vianney Lopez for her thoughtful

vote and actions. Here is what the Drug Policy Alliance says about Prop. 36. Jim Yarbrough Newbury Park, CA

The LA Times Editorial Board just came out in opposition to a dangerous ballot initiative, Proposition 36. And we couldn't agree more.

Prop 36 would "re-felonize" possession of drugs for personal use for many people and increase penalties for other drug offenses. Experts agree that increasing criminal penalties does not address public drug use, crime, or homelessness. Prop 36 would destabilize community members in need, overcrowd correctional facilities, and increase overdose risk.

Decades of punitive approaches have shown that harsh sentencing and increased criminalization make outcomes worse for those struggling with addiction. Drug treatment in CA is already difficult to access for those who want it. Prop 36 would worsen this by diverting taxpayer dollars away from much-needed investments in health services and treatment.

Californians deserve health-based solutions to the overdose crisis, not false promises of change. That means expanding overdose prevention and harm reduction services; ensuring low-barrier access to voluntary treatment; expanding community response services for mental health, substance use, and homelessness needs; and increasing affordable and supportive housing.

We hope you'll read and share the full LA Times editorial about why Prop 36 is a false solution to the issues facing Californians.

Here in California and across the country, drug war defenders, correctional officers, and prison executives are launching campaigns to reboot the worst of the drug war and reinstate mass incarceration. They are preying on the concerns that residents have about their communities and offering solutions that will only make conditions

worse. But we know better.

We will keep fighting for the evidence-based solutions and health services that save lives.

Thank you for your support,
Grey Gardner

Acting State Director, California
Drug Policy Alliance