

Addictions are diseases that need money, cures

Addiction is a disease. Unfortunately, our laws continue to imply otherwise. to be cured, not a sin to be condemned.

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Most insurance companies, for example, implicitly blame the victim for their illness by refusing to pay the costs associated with treating substance abuse. This needs to change.

Anyone who views substance abuse as a choice rather than an affliction is out of touch with reality.

So why do insurance companies generally pay the medical expenses incurred by smokers who develop lung cancer?

It's well documented that smoking causes cancer. Therefore, it could be argued that insurance companies should not have to pay for treatment when a smoker develops cancer.

After all, their unfortunate circumstance is ultimately the result of a bad decision.

Sure, bad decisions often have undesirable consequences, but how a condition originates should not be a factor in determining whether or not it is covered by insurance.

An addict does not steal to "support their habit." They steal because they have a disease.

Addicts often will do whatever it takes to acquire the resources needed to support their dependency and having uninterrupted access to what their body craves can be very expensive.

At the same time, treatment can be as costly as the addiction. Some addicts go from stealing to pay the exorbitant cost of their disease to stealing to pay the exorbitant cost of its cure.

The services we provide those who suffer from addiction should be readily available and genuinely affordable.

Anyone who struggles with this horrible disease should be able to receive the help they desperately need.

If we are serious about addressing the substance abuse problem in our country, we need to get real about the financial resources we dedicate to it.

It's time we started seeing addiction for what it really is: a disease

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