

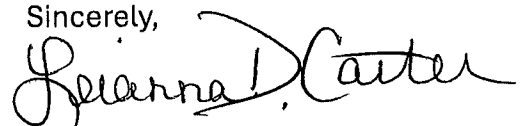
From where I sit with the knowledge that I have gained in my 7 years of recovery and the attainment of my associates degree in addiction counseling there are two worlds. There are those who have, and those who have not. If you are lucky enough to be on the side of have nots, you should be humbled in not knowing the tolls and barriers faced by those trying to climb out of the pits of addiction.

I have dedicated the last several years to seeking out and finding the areas in the recovery community that need the most support and awareness and lending help. I work as a clinician at Wellspring New horizon Detox. I work in the trenches of the crisis we face daily. Things can change at the drop of a hat. It can be 4:00 p.m. on a Sunday, and the phone rings. I answer the phone with a kind greeting. I am met with trembling sobs on the other end. A pregnant female begging for a bed to save her baby. I tell her to come over as quickly and safely as she can get here. As soon as the receiver clicks, I say we have a pregnant female, and the scramble begins.

What if there was not Wellspring New Horizon Detox, or Milestone, or St. Mary's. What if all the trembling cries of pregnant females seeking treatment, or anyone seeking treatment were met with an endless deaf tone of, "your call cannot be completed as dialed?" Because this is the fear and the spine shattering reality we are facing. At New Horizon it costs \$700 per day, per client to maintain our program. That is nothing more than the bare minimum. We operate at a \$297 daily deficit per client. We have a 10-client facility. That is \$2,970 we are losing daily to stay open. This does not take into account the \$3.00 copay that was just reimplemented, or the wound care or antibiotics that we need to purchase because the majority of illicit drugs are laced with xylazine.

So, with the need for more beds and more treatment facilities I urge you to consider this bill and help us support our communities. Because not one person standing in this room today is here for clout. We stand here because we are passionate about what we do and the communities we serve. We stand here because we are in the belly of the beast daily. And when that belly grumbles, we see the need. We are neighbors, brothers, sisters, and friends. Seeking support from our elected officials to help aid our detox centers and clients the best way we know how. By finding our grit and fighting for what is right, just and needed. So, I ask, what do you fight for?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leianna Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leianna" and the last name "Carter" clearly distinguishable.

Leianna Carter, CADC