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Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
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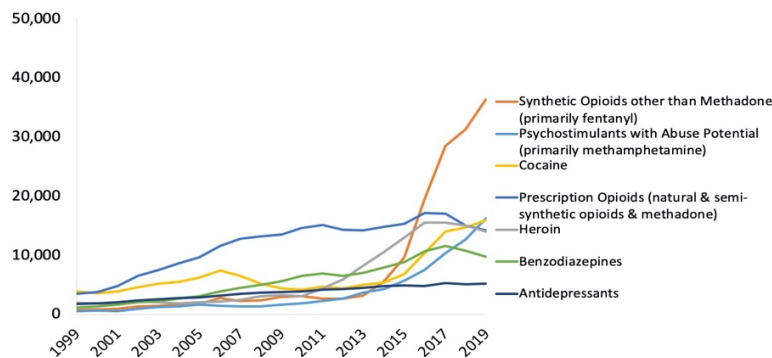
LD 1035

Senator Susan Deschambault – Chair
Senator Scott Cyrway
Senator Mark Lawrence
Representative Charlotte Warren – Chair
Representative Danny Costain
Representative Grayson Lookner
Representative Victoria Morales
Representative Daniel Newman
Representative Richard Pickett
Representative Bill Pluecker
Representative Lois Reckitt
Representative Shelley Rudnicki
Representative Braden Sharpe

Dear Committee Members,

I stand opposed to LD 1035. Our “war on drugs” has resulted in mass incarceration and the majority of mental health treatment in prisons instead of in the community or other more appropriate settings. Drug fatality rates continue to rise from illegally manufactured fentanyl and other analogues at alarming rates with the continued approach that emphasizes punishment fails.

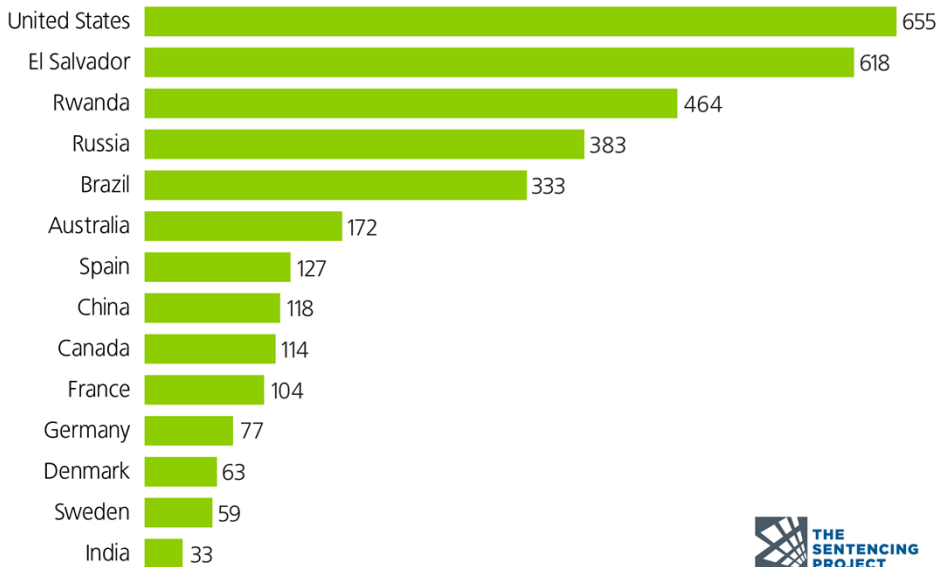
**Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*,
Number Among All Ages, 1999-2019**



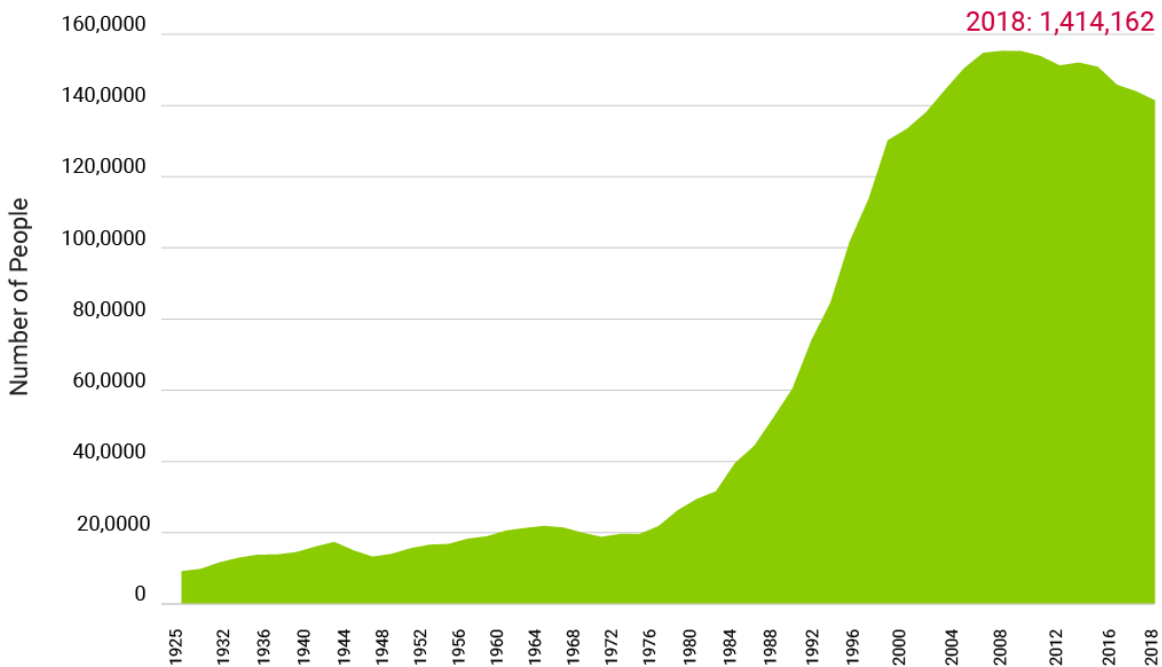
*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.

Deaths for the pandemic spiked to 88,000 (12 months that ended August 2020). Until we move to harm reduction strategies more people will die, and we will continue to warehouse our population in prisons. America is 5% of the world's population but 25% of the prison population. 64% of the prison population suffers from mental illness of which substance use disorder is a subset.

International Rates of Incarceration per 100,000



U.S. State and Federal Prison Population, 1925-2018



LD1035 will not necessarily target the right people as well as result in needless incarceration that does not serve its purpose of rehabilitation. We are not treating people in prison. We are not solving our opioid crisis. This is one step in the right direction.

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