

# CALL TO ACTION

## Goals:

- > Ensure equitable and effective addiction treatment and recovery coverage in all public and private health care plans
- > Endorse addiction prevention, early intervention and research as an investment in America's future
- > Support policies that promote long-term recovery from addiction as integral to overall health
- > Support people in long-term recovery who often are discriminated against when seeking jobs, housing and insurance

## FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

Use the following five questions to ask candidates for local, state and federal office about key recovery issues.

- 1) Untreated addiction is the cause of other problems and illnesses like heart disease, lower work productivity, overcrowded jails and broken families. Yet millions of Americans can't access the treatment and recovery services they need. If elected, will you support an increase in funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to all who need them?
- 2) Many in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, myself included, have experienced insurance discrimination, which means we have been denied life-saving treatments. Will you vote for a bill to end insurance discrimination by offering the same coverage – parity – for addiction services as for other health issues?
- 3) The war on drugs has proven that despite spending \$40 billion a year to fight it, drug use has not decreased. America's mayors, along with local law enforcement officials, are pushing for a new approach that puts an emphasis on treatment and alternatives to jail. Do you agree or disagree with this new direction and why?
- 4) Millions of Americans are in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, yet many still find it difficult to get an education, a good job, or health insurance due to discriminatory policies and laws. Do you support the repeal of these laws, which basically prevent people who have paid their debt to society from contributing to their families and communities in a positive way?
- 5) Recovery support services have been critical to helping people sustain their recovery from addiction for the long term. The President has eliminated funding for recovery community organizations providing these services from his 2009 budget. Do you support restoring this funding and extending the Recovery Community Services Program which has proven to be successful in communities across the country?