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DON'T REVERSE VOTERS' WILL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: OPPOSE HB 1482

HB 1482 makes drug possession a felony again across very large areas of cities and towns.

- HB 1482's "enhancement zones" would make drug possession a felony within 1,000 feet (more than 2 city blocks) of every daycare, school, park, and church in Oklahoma. HB 1482 would result in drug possession being punished far more harshly in urban areas than in rural areas.
- Overlap of these zones means that drug possession would again become a felony across large parts of cities and towns, including nearly all of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, where the biggest majorities of voters were in favor of SQ 780.
- The law will affect numerous people within homes that simply happen to be near a designated area.

HB 1482 unfairly targets mothers and caregivers.

- By including drug possession "in the presence of children," HB 1482 will make Oklahoma's female incarceration rates worse. Women whose only crime is drug possession still need treatment, not incarceration. Treatment is more effective than incarceration for protecting children and preventing recidivism.

HB 1482 is not needed to protect children.

- Possession with intent to distribute most controlled dangerous substances – including marijuana – is still a felony with a 2 year mandatory minimum sentence in Oklahoma. For other drugs, the mandatory minimum is 5 years in prison.
- Research shows that less than 1 percent of drug dealing cases in enhancement zones involve minors.

HB 1482 contradicts the will of voters who approved SQ 780 by a strong majority in November.

- SQ 780 passed by a 17-point margin in November. Oklahomans want a new approach to criminal justice that focuses on treatment for those with addiction and substance abuse issues, not incarceration.
- Weakening the effect of SQ 780 will add hundreds of people to the prison population, adding to our corrections crisis

HB 1482 would ignore the evidence and the will of the voters by reinstating felony charges for drug possession across virtually all of Oklahoma City and Tulsa and large parts of the rest of the state. Legislators must focus on safely reducing the prison population, not adding to it. Vote no on HB 1482.