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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation. I look forward to working with you on my district's health priorities.

I write to bring your attention to a program by the State of California to release incurable Sexually Violent Predators into the community and request that we work together to put an end to this dangerous practice.

The State of California and Governor Newsom have implemented a deeply troubling and reckless initiative: The Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Conditional Release Program (CONREP). This releases dangerous and criminally convicted sexually violent offenders from treatment facilities and places them into residential neighborhoods.

As you may be aware, less than one percent of the sex offender population is comprised of SVPs. As defined by California statute, a "Sexually violent predator is a person convicted of a sexually violent offense against one or more victims and who has a diagnosed mental disorder that makes the person a danger to the health and safety of others in that it is likely that he or she will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior." According to data from the Megan's Law database, at least at least 111 SVPs are located in California.

It is important to note that because SVPs have a diagnosed medical disorder, they are neither in treatment nor recovery. This is why, as a matter of course, SVPs remain in secure state-operated treatment facilities after serving their prison sentences. However, under California's CONREP program, they can petition the court to leave supervised care and be placed in local communities.

According to a recent study by the American Psychological Association, nearly half of observed SVPs were returned to custody for violating CONREP release terms. Several had committed additional sexually violent offenses upon release. Even one offense is too many, and by leaving this failed program in effect, California is endangering entire communities everywhere SVPs are released. This program must end.

Over the last four years, 10 SVPs have been released into my district with more scheduled in the coming months. State officials have repeatedly placed these individuals in residential communities next to families with young children, elderly seniors, and those with disabilities.

That is why I continue to join with local community members and oppose this continuing threat to public safety.

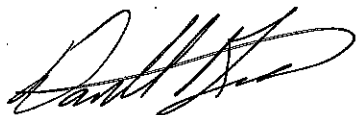
Unfortunately, Governor Newsom and Democrats in the State Legislature have ignored our appeals. They have no intention of eliminating this harmful program.

This is why I introduced legislation to remove all federal support: The *Stopping Sexually Violent Predators Act*. My bill would end federal taxpayer Medicare and Medicaid funding for SVPs outside of correctional or secure medical facilities. As these individuals will never be cured, and are designated as the most extreme of cases, at-home treatment should not be supported by these federally funded programs. As you know, parameters are often placed on inpatient and outpatient care, so this approach is in keeping with decisions regularly made within these programs.

Your review of this issue is critical as Governor Newsom and Sacramento's Democrat leadership continue to ignore community pleas and state legislative proposals. It is essential that we act to remove federal funding and end this dangerous program.

I look forward to working with you, to ensure our communities are safe from these dangerous individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Issa', with a stylized, cursive script.

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress