
YES ON SR 407: PREVENT YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE (UNTERMAN)

Georgia's young people deserve a shot at a great future. Too often, that future is put in jeopardy by alcohol and drug misuse. SR 407 helps address this problem.

What Does SR 407 Do?

- Establishes a study committee to explore cost-effective prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce youth addiction to drugs and alcohol
- The study committee will look specifically at Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), an approach that has been piloted at two Georgia sites and shown to be effective in preventing substance use disorders
- The study committee will make recommendations at the end of 2015 for statewide strategies to prevent youth substance use disorders

Why Do We Need SR 407?

- Drug and alcohol use is not unusual among Georgia's youth and it leads to poorer health, diminished productivity, and higher health care costs.
- The vast majority of adults who have a substance use disorder began their use before the age of 18
- Opiate addiction and deaths from overdose have increased in recent years

Why does SR 407 focus on prevention and early intervention?

- Early detection and treatment of a substance use disorder is much more effective and less costly than dealing with the consequences of addiction or criminal justice involvement
- Early access to screening and counseling can help young people avoid the destructive consequences of drug and alcohol misuse and addiction
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) has been shown to be effective and is a promising model for Georgia

Why Vote Yes?

- To keep Georgia's youth on the path to a bright future!
- To begin an important discussion about how to address this growing problem

PLEASE VOTE YES ON SR 407.