

BATTLING THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC WITH INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT

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America's heroin epidemic represents a new phase in the war on drugs. However, while addiction has often been approached as a law-and-order issue in the United States, new alternative addiction assistance programs are emerging to help addicts overcome this horrendous disease. This Article focuses on the heroin epidemic that is affecting our nation, and how involuntary treatment is being used to combat addiction. First, this Article addresses the facts and statistics behind the heroin epidemic within the United States. Additionally, this Article examines the burden heroin addiction places on a state's resources, healthcare system, and budget. This Article then reviews the constitutionality surrounding the use of involuntary treatment to combat substance abuse. Next, this Article analyzes the involuntary treatment statute known as "Casey's Law." Finally, this Article addresses other alternative addiction assistance options that states are using to fight and suppress the use of heroin within this nation. The winning solution that states must implement is a

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variety of these options because a one size fits all approach will not work.