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Rolling Stone Gathers New PATH - San Diego

Gretchen Burns Bergman, Co-Director of A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) was featured in the Dec/Jan issue of internationally renowned Rolling Stone magazine in an article describing the overwhelming success of various drug related initiatives around the country voted on in the Nov. 7 election.

Bergman, who is California State Chairwoman for the Campaign for New Drug Policy, led the charge in the state for the passage of Proposition 36, which mandates treatment instead of incarceration for some drug possession offenders. Prop 36 passed by an awesome 61 to 39% statewide margin, showing that the people of the state are, once again, way ahead of the politicians. It takes effect July 1, 2001.

Exposing the complete ineffectiveness of imprisonment, PATH Co-Director Bergman laments, "When they're in the midst of their disease, homeless, dying, any kind of threats usually don't make much difference to them, even prison" quotes Rolling Stone. Ms. Bergman knows what she speaks. She and both of her sons have experienced the abysmal failure of the existing criminal justice system to positively affect her son's addictions. In fact, Ms. Bergman ardently espouses that incarceration has greatly, adversely affected her heroin-addicted son's recovery.

Bergman and her non-profit association, PATH, were very prominent in influencing the outcome of Prop 36. Dave Fratello, a co-author of the initiative, said about PATH and Bergman, San Diego was the most active region for us, quotes Rolling Stone.

Bergman continues in her leadership role to improve the quality of life for all Californians. Now that Prop 36 is law, she attended the Conference on Implementation held Monday in Sacramento. Ms. Bergman said about the conference, There were more questions than answers. To answer those questions, Co-Director Bergman announced a PATH-sponsored upcoming San Diego public forum. For information, contact Ms. Bergman at the PATH office at 619-670-1184 or gretchenb@abac.com.