

Outdated and Counterproductive “No Cure” Philosophy Presentation

Why H.B. 10-1364 Needs Passed Into Law

The “No Cure” Philosophy is Outdated and Counterproductive

This presentation addresses lines 12-23 on Page 9 of H.B 10-1364, which removed statutory language requiring the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) to develop regulations based on a controversial “No Cure” philosophy.

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Contrary to SOMB claims of national leadership, a 2009 nationwide survey by Safer Society suggests that Colorado is lagging behind other states in sex offender management because of its “No-Cure” philosophy.

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- The 2009 Safer Society Survey examined which philosophies of treatment are most commonly used by states nationwide.
- The Safer Society survey does not list Colorado's "No Cure" philosophy as a significant philosophy of treatment nationwide.¹

¹ The Safer Society Survey did not even mention “No Cure” as a philosophy or underlying principle for sex offender treatment.

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Under the Safer Society survey, Colorado’s “No Cure” philosophy is best characterized as a “Relapse Prevention” philosophy.

- Relapse Prevention emphasizes containment and avoidance based on a belief that sex offenders cannot be rehabilitated.²

² Relapse Prevention focuses cognitive-behavioral treatment on teaching sex offenders skills to prevent recidivism

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The 2009 Safer Society Survey found a “significant” 17.9 % decrease nationwide since 2002 in the number of states using a “Relapse Prevention” philosophy.

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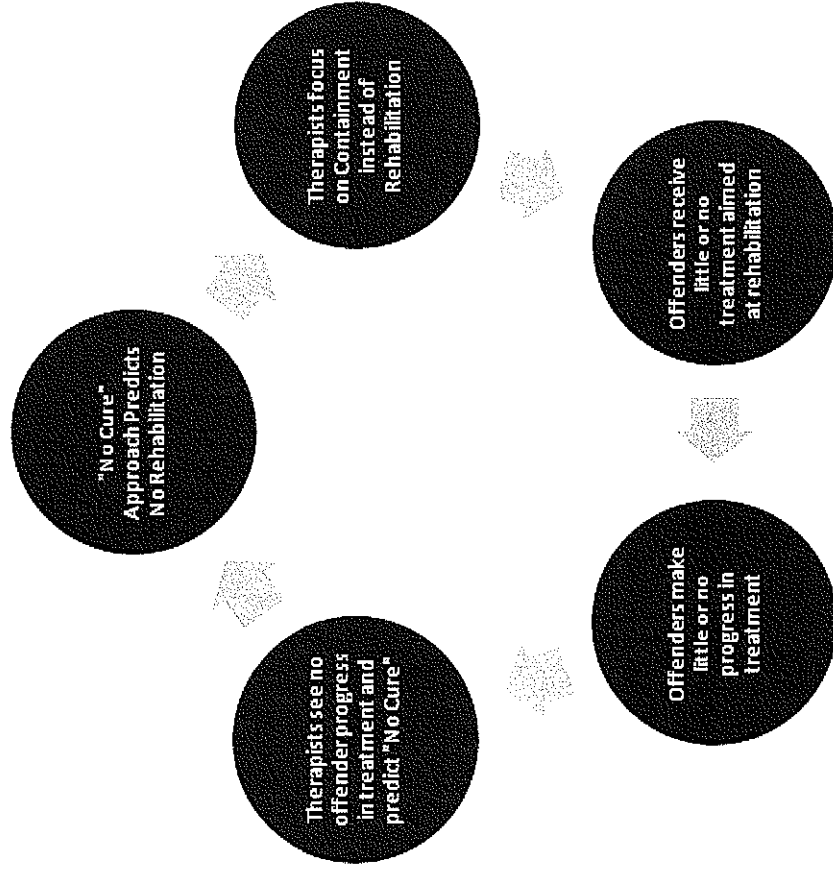
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The 2009 Safer Society survey attributed the decrease in states using Relapse Prevention (similar to Colorado’s “No Cure”) philosophies to the following factors:

- Practitioners and researchers who were surveyed had “considerable criticism” of Relapse Prevention philosophies like Colorado’s “No Cure” philosophy.
- Relapse Prevention emphasizes containment and avoidance instead of more effective prosocial goals
- The Relapse Prevention (“No Cure”) philosophy is self-defeating.

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- Colorado is stuck in the 1990s because of the statutory “No Cure” language that is being removed by HB 10-1364.
- The 2009 Safer Society survey establishes that other states are moving towards sex offender rehabilitation, with much better results than Colorado’s “No Cure” philosophy.

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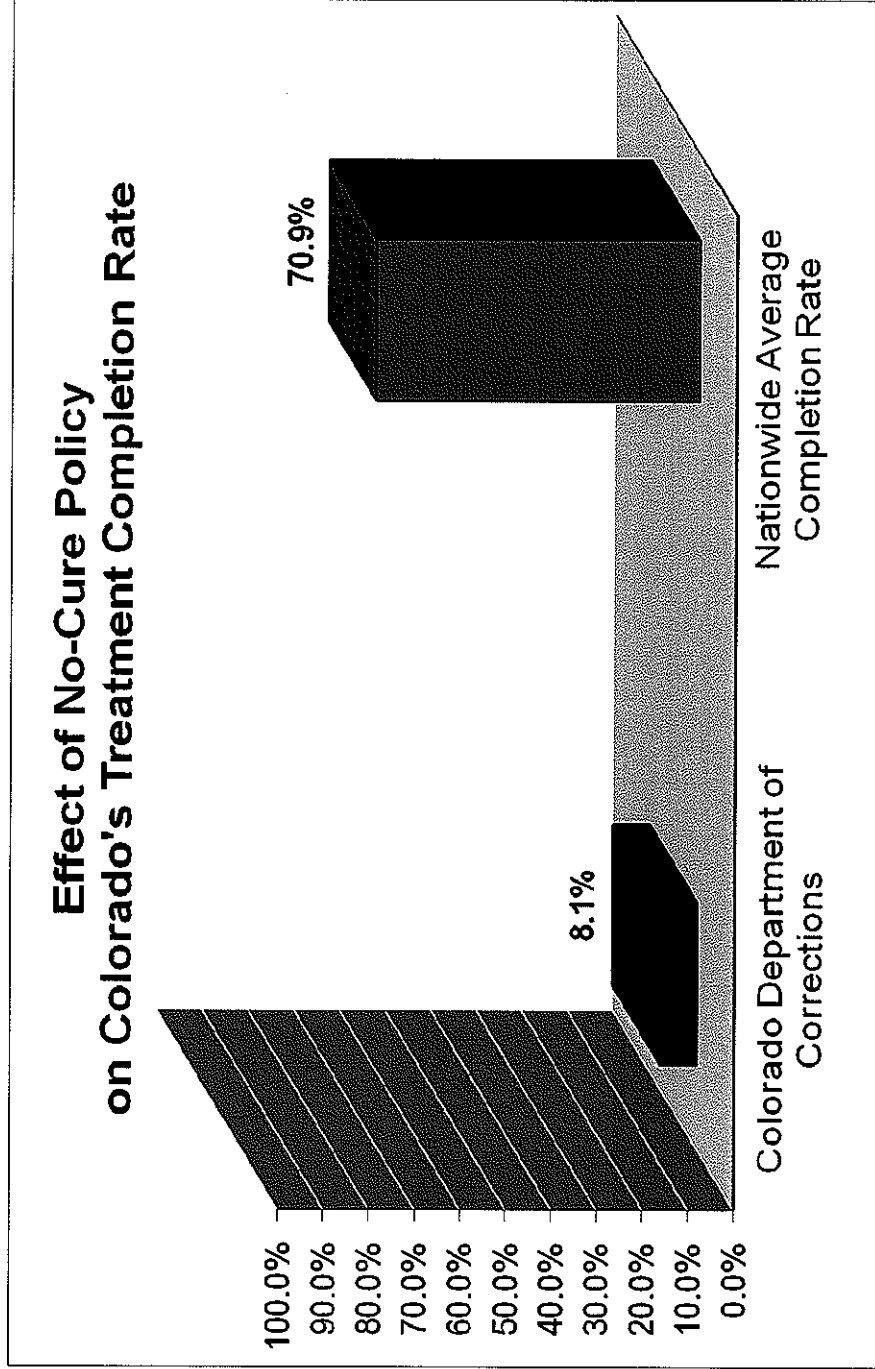
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**The Effect of Colorado’s “No Cure” Philosophy is Best Illustrated by
Comparing Colorado’s Treatment Completion Rate with Nationwide Rates.³**

³ The figure of 8.1 % for CDOC’s treatment completion rate was calculated based on data obtained from Colorado Department of Corrections’s et al., *November 1, 2009 Lifetime Supervision of Sex Offenders Annual Report*, at pp. 13-14. That report listed 523 offenders either on the wait list or having participated in treatment in FY 2009 and stated that only 42 had been recommended for community placement, which indicates that those 42 had satisfied treatment goals. (42/523 = 8.03%). The figure of 70.9% for the Nationwide Average Completion rate was obtained from Robert J. McGrath et al., *Current Practices and Emerging Trends in Sexual Abuser Management: The Safer Society 2009 North American Survey*, at p. 107, Table 14.2a (Rate for Adult Males in Residential Programs)

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Recommendation

Pass H.B. 10-1364, removing statutory “No Cure” language