

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

Reason. Compassion. Justice.

May 27, 2005

City and County of San Francisco
Human Rights Commission
San Francisco, CA

Re: Employment Resolution Sponsored by All of Us or None

By Fax: (415) 431-5764

Dear Commissioners:

I write in support of the Employment Resolution sponsored by All of Us or None, a project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, urging the City and County of San Francisco to “ban the box” requiring individuals to disclose past criminal records on applications for public employment and for employers doing business with the City and County. I am the director of legal affairs for Drug Policy Alliance, the nation's leading organization working to end the war on drugs and envisioning new drug policies based on science, compassion, health and human rights.

Drug Policy Alliance has offices in San Francisco and in Oakland and we have worked with the staff of All of Us or None to increase awareness of the barriers faced by individuals who have criminal convictions as they attempt to rebuild their lives. My office has also worked closely with the City and County of San Francisco on various programs, such as the Street to Work Collaborative, and witnessed the City's and the County's commitment to addressing these barriers in a meaningful way.

Drug Policy Alliance supports removing barriers to employment for individuals with criminal convictions, particularly those with non-violent drug convictions. Individuals and their families who are convicted of drug felonies face a wide spectrum of punitive policies that limit their access to social services, education, and employment. These “collateral consequences” of the war on drugs discriminate against families and particularly communities of color as well as poor communities. They intensify the struggles individuals face on the road to recovery and rehabilitation.

Adopting the employment resolution sponsored by All of Us or None will be a meaningful way to demonstrate the City's and the County's commitment to addressing and removing these barriers.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Abrahamson
Director of Legal Affairs