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**LEGAL ACTION CENTER PRAISES PRESIDENT BUSH'S EMPHASIS
ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT AND RECOVERY**

Washington, D.C. - The Legal Action Center praised President Bush for his strong statements in support of alcohol and drug treatment and recovery and announcement of a new treatment initiative during his State of the Union Address. Jenny Collier, Director of National Policy and State Strategy for the Legal Action Center, stated that, "Alcohol and drug treatment and prevention deserve this Administration's attention. Legal Action Center welcomes President Bush's statement that he and Drug Czar John Walters will carry out their promise to dramatically expand alcohol and drug treatment by investing an additional \$600 million over three years. It is especially important to focus on wide dissemination of resources during these harsh economic times for the States – addiction treatment budgets are being slashed nationwide and federal resources are more precious than ever."

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Paul Samuels, Legal Action Center's President/Director, stated his hope that in addition to expanding treatment that, "The Administration will support protections for individuals in recovery who are reclaiming their lives and contributing to society. These protections encourage individuals to enter evidence-based alcohol and drug treatment, which has been proven time and again to reduce the human, social and financial costs of addiction."

The Legal Action Center is the only public interest law and policy organization in the United States whose sole mission is to fight discrimination against and protect the privacy of individuals in recovery from alcoholism or drug dependence, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and individuals with criminal records. From its offices in New York City and Washington, D.C., the Center works to combat the stigma and prejudice that keep these individuals out of the mainstream of society. The Legal Action Center helps people reclaim their lives, maintain their dignity, and participate fully in society as productive, responsible citizens.

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