

Questions for the Record from Ms. Alma Adams for Jeff Asher

“Victims of Violent Crime”

September 29, 2025

1. Mental Health Treatment in Prisons: Many people in our criminal justice system suffer from mental health conditions, and prisons are often poorly equipped to address those needs. Supporters of reform argue that providing effective mental health treatment both during incarceration and after release could help reduce rates of reoffending.
 - For those already in the justice system, what is the evidence regarding mental health treatment (including medication, therapy, and case management) inside prisons and upon reentry for reducing recidivism rates?
2. Social and Economic Policies: While policing and incarceration are often central to crime reduction strategies, research increasingly points to the impact of broader social and economic conditions. Addressing the root causes of crime may offer more sustainable solutions over time.
 - Beyond direct intervention, what broader social and economic policies—such as investment in education, job programs for at-risk youth, affordable housing, or substance use treatment—have shown a demonstrable effect on reducing crime rates?