Prisoners of the War on Drugs

California’s 1994 law applies to all felons—so it strikes frequently at drug users.

When Chino was 17, his mother turned him in for burglarizing their home.

It’s the only way to get you into a drug program!

But all he got was prison time and his 1st felony conviction.

Back out on the street,

And still strung out—

Out of work,

His second felony.

Chino stayed out of trouble for years.

Then he was caught standing 30 feet from a friend who sold $20 worth of cocaine.

Chino’s charges: Aiding & Abetting.

Under the new law, his 3rd felony got him 25-to-life.

Californians passed this law in outrage over the kidnapping, rape & murder of a 12-year-old by a recent parolee with a history of violence against women.

“3 Strikes” typically catches petty thieves driven by addiction. Now Californians are asking:

Missing:

Should we lock up so many for so long—at over $30,000 a year?