New Illinois Law Gives Cops Choice Not To Jail People for Small Amounts of Drugs

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The change follows a Better Government Association/Chicago Sun-Times investigation last year that documented the impact of 'dead end' drug arrests in which people are briefly locked up, only to see the charges soon dismissed.

The Costly Toll of Dead-End Drug

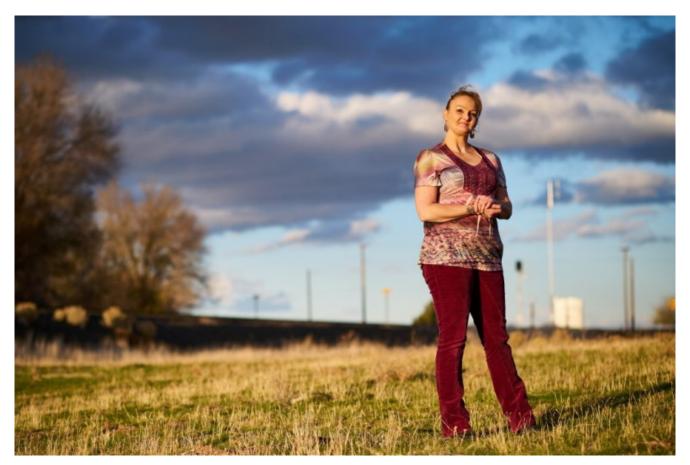
Arrests

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In Chicago, thousands of drug possession arrests are tossed out every year because of an unwritten rule in the courts, a Better Government Association/Chicago Sun-Times investigation has found. The cost to taxpayers? Millions. To those arrested? Jobs, housing, freedom.

Oregon Is First State to Ticket Narcotics Users, but New Reform Has Yet To Live Up To Promise



In Illinois, possession of even trace amounts of heroin residue is a felony. But in Oregon, it's not a crime at all any more. Instead, people caught with drugs get a ticket. Oregon's new drug reform is keeping users out of jail — but the goal of getting them help for their addictions has been elusive.

Kim Foxx's Ex-Trainer Caught Up in 'Unending Cycle' of Drug Arrests

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Drug issue hits every corner of Cook County. 'It breaks my heart,' the state's attorney says.

Faulty doors at Cook County Jail let inmates fight each other

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DANGER CELLS | Escapes unlikely, but faulty doors let inmates fight each other