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Letters

Battling addiction will take full-scale focus on treatment

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While I appreciate the continued focus on the opioid epidemic throughout Boston and the state, I encourage officials to look deeper ([“Heroin toll up sharply in state,”](#) Page A1, Jan. 29).

Addiction is a lifelong struggle requiring herculean efforts to manage daily. Naloxone is a miracle drug when it comes to reversing an overdose, but it does nothing to combat addiction.

Overdosing once dramatically increases the odds of an individual overdosing again. The best way to fight heroin addiction and death is engagement in treatment, including relapse prevention and overdose education. Neither a so-called clean batch of heroin nor access to and knowledge of naloxone will stop it.

We need to offer those in need greater access to trained counselors, case managers, medical professionals, individual and group therapy, 24-hour support, and a caring, supportive community. We need to immediately restore the more than 160 addiction recovery beds that were lost when the Long Island Bridge closed on Oct. 8, 2014. That’s at least a war in our power to win.

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