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## Try new anti-drug strategy

Your analysis of the White House anti-methamphetamine policy noted that "it lacks smart new policies and measurable goals" (Losing patience with the drug czar," Sept. 30).

That describes the entire drug policy. The "performance measures" of the national drug strategy ignore: (1) the lives lost from drug use, which has increased since 1980, (2) the steady rise in purity, (3) the steady decline in prices and (4) the easy availability of drugs to students.

We need a new comprehensive strategy to minimize harm. Regulate and control drug manufacture, distribution and use with licenses, taxation and the myriad public and private controls of legal products.

Consider that without "zero tolerance" or jail, over half of all Americans who have ever smoked tobacco have been helped to quit.

Legalizing easier-to-control drugs such as marijuana, heroin and the psychedelics would give society more control than the hammer of enforcement. For hard-to-control drugs such as meth and cocaine, focus enforcement resources on controlling the precursor chemicals and fighting the major traffickers.

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