

Members of the committee,

My name is Joshua Vincent, I reside in Lake County. I am here today to speak on the behalf of addicts and people suffering all over our great state. I am recovered today from a 17 year addiction to opiates. February 11th I celebrated 2 years of freedom from addiction. I am here to speak on behalf of a community that has few solutions to this epidemic that has been a scourge on our society.

Over the years I have tried many different approaches to recovery. Inpatient, outpatient, jail, prison, and self knowledge. It was not until I got active in faith based recovery that I was finally delivered from the throws of addiction. I always thought that I was in control, that I could do this. When I learned of a new approach that allowed me to be redeemed and forgiven for the wrongs that I did, that I was able to start healing. This approach was with my Lord and savior Jesus Christ. I attend a church that probably close to forty percent of the congregation is in recovery from drugs or alcohol and we all take the ministry to the streets.

Our problem is that there is not that many options when it comes to faith based recovery. Unless self funded there is little chance of getting these places off the ground. Organizations like Northeast Ohio's Fight Against Addiction are doing great works however limited by funding. This is why I'm here. To speak and show you faith based recovery is real and works. As you consider this bill, also consider the suffering

addict, mother, father, or any number of loved one.

I have seen the good and the bad side of recovery. I've also seen the transformation and growth that is unbelievable due to faith based recovery. Every person has a different need, why not allow them the freedom of choosing faith based recovery. Thank you for listening and God bless.

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