



Bible Baptist

CHURCH

2758 Home Road • Grove City, Ohio 43123 • (614) 875-2190 • www.BBCGroveCity.org

02/14/2018

Service Times:

Sunday School

9:30 am

Sunday Morning

10:30 am

Sunday Evening

6:30 pm

Wed. Bible Study

7:00 pm

Friday RU Recovery

7:00 pm

Senior Pastor

Stan Slabaugh

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair LaTourette, Ranking Member Boyd, Members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today as a proponent of Substitute HB 427. As you are well aware by now this sub bill has seen many changes and is the result of many meetings and consulting with many agencies, associations, and organizations. Sub HB 427 has been pared down to address primarily the work of faith-based addiction recovery programming in the State of Ohio.

I have been the senior pastor of the Bible Baptist Church in Grove City, Ohio for 12 years. I have been in the ministry for over 35 years. Our church has had a faith-based addiction program for almost seven years. I have also been volunteering by bringing this same program every week to the men at the Central Reception Center in Orient, and again we are at the London Correctional Institution on Saturday mornings and will soon begin the program at the Madison Correctional Institution by request of the Chaplain. During this time and through these experiences I have learned much about helping the addicted. I would by no means consider myself an expert although over the last few years I have had the opportunity to be a speaker/trainer at National Recovery Conferences. I also come to you as a person who has been affected very personally with the travesty of addiction in close family members.

The underlying purpose and belief of the faith-based community is that we, as people, are a trichotomy; That is to say, we have been created with a spirit, soul (mind, will, & emotion), and body. This is what sets us apart from animals. They are a simple dichotomy with a soul and body. We believe in a holistic approach to tackling the addiction crisis to which we have found ourselves. The state has done, and is doing its best in addressing the body, and the soul, but it falls far short of addressing the issues of the spirit. These spiritual issues are where the breakdown has historically been found. We in the faith community believe that if you can confront the root issues and get the inside (spirit) stable then the body and soul will be able to be victorious as well. We would like to see available a three-pronged approach to recovery. I do not believe it is the state's responsibility to provide spiritual guidance, nor do I believe that every person should be forced to use the faith-based recovery option, but I do believe that it is imperative that the state not build roadblocks that would hinder the effectiveness of the faith-based option.

Last August President Trump declared the Opioid crisis a national emergency. The next month, September was "National Recovery Month." It was during this month that Representative Young hosted a faith-based recovery rally on the steps of the statehouse. We heard two hours of testimonies from former addicts, State Representatives, a Congressman, Director Mohr from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and a judge from Richland County. All of whom said that they have witnessed that Faith-Based recovery works! I would like to share a short 4 minute video as part of my testimony that encapsulates that rally.

Home of the "Words to Encourage" Daily Radio Broadcast on 91.5fm

(pause)

As you heard, there are many across this great state and nation that have state that “it works.” Judge DeWeese was emailed last week and invited to speak this afternoon and although he was unable to make it today he did respond by saying *“Thank you for your e-mail telling me of your legislative efforts on behalf of faith-based treatment. I do have a full schedule of hearings in my court for February 14th. But you are welcome to use my 9-8-17 letter attached to your e-mail in the testimony if you think it helpful. (This has been uploaded to your iPads as written testimony) My opinion has not changed about the general effectiveness of Christ-centered treatment over all others.”*

You will hear from others who will testify on the specifics of the bill and how it would be a practical help in their respective ministries. I am grateful for ministries such as Hope over Heroin, The Refuge, Clean Start Help for Addicts and Families of addicts, RU Recovery Ministries (which we use in our church), Celebrate Recovery, Shiloh Recovery Ministry, Lake County Fight Against Heroin, and many others across the state.

My purpose of coming before you was simply to lay the groundwork for those coming after me. If we would have the countless hours to spend we could bring individuals from all demographics that have experienced long-term victory of their particular stubborn habit or addiction through Faith-Based Recovery. In our local chapter, over the last 6 years I have seen “students” with successful victory over Heroin, Alcohol, Pornography, Cigarettes, Prescription Pills, Anger, Depression, Gambling, and Kleptomania. These victories were achieved because of ministering to the spirit, soul, and body of the individual.

I thank you for your time and attention today.