

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair LaTourette, Ranking Member Boyd, that you for giving me the opportunity to speak today as a proponent of Substitute HB 427. My name is Kimble Zornes. I live in Hillsboro, OH. I am pastor of Carpenter's House of Prayer in Hillsboro, which my wife and I started in 1999. I have lived in Hillsboro all my life and have seen first-hand the devastation the opiate epidemic has brought to our community. We have been personally affected by it losing our sons best friend, our ex son in-law, one of our youth in the church, a close friend and other extended family. Even before most of these deaths, my wife and I became passionate about helping those caught up in addiction and began to work towards putting together a recovery program. In spring of 2015, we started a weekly program called Shiloh Recovery Ministry using the RU Recovery program curriculum. We have had approximately 100 or so students come through the program with successes and failures understanding that not everyone will stay with the program due to the nature of addiction. But even one saved from the grips of addiction is a success.

In the beginning of October of 2017, we opened up a small residential program, which will be a 13 to 15 month program with an end goal of getting students back into being productive members of society. Keeping them in a support system through the local churches as long as they need the support. Not just putting them back on the street to fend for themselves.

We believe a huge component in recovery is addressing the spiritual part of humanity. We highly encourage a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, as does the curriculum we use. In **John 8:36** the Bible tells us "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." That scripture alone tells us that through Christ we can be set free from anything that binds us. Another component to recovery is unconditional love, the kind of love Christ showed us when he went to the cross.

**John 3:16-17 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

<sup>17</sup>For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

One of the parts missing many times in the recovery process is true unconditional love and those who have truly experienced the unconditional love and forgiveness of Christ have the ability to share that unconditional love with others regardless of their background. At Shiloh we shower them with love.

One of the biggest challenges for the faith-based community is getting the funding to operate a program. Those in addiction usually have burnt so many bridges and lost everything they have so most are unable to contribute financially which makes it difficult to be successful. We need all the help we can get to win in this battle called addiction, it is going to take a unified effort from all who have a part to play in this battle Thank you for your time, and God bless you for your efforts in this fight.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.