



# MIKE DeWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

**Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine**  
**Senate Finance – General Government and Agency Review Subcommittee**  
**Substitute H.B. 49: Main Operating Budget for FY 2018-2019**  
**Testimony – As Prepared for Delivery**  
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Chairman Jordan, Vice Chairman O'Brien, and members of the Committee -- thank you for the opportunity to discuss the biennial budget request for the Attorney General's Office.

My number one priority as Attorney General is straightforward: Protecting Ohio's families.

Our office does that in multiple ways. When requested, we assist local law enforcement and help investigate and prosecute cases. My office also advocates for consumers, seniors, and children. And, we are the legal counsel representing the interests of all of Ohio's state agencies, boards and commissions, and state universities.

The 2018-2019 budget, as proposed in Substitute House Bill 49, helps us build on the work we have done over the last six years. Overall, the total proposed budget for the Attorney General's Office is \$345.1 million for fiscal year 2018 and \$330.8 million for fiscal year 2019.

The majority of our budget is supported through Dedicated Purposes Funds, while less than 15% comes from the General Revenue Fund. GRF operating expenses for the Ohio Attorney General's Office have remained flat since FY2010, and I am pleased to tell you that I am not asking for an increase in this biennium. I am here to ask for the same amount -- \$43.1 million -- for each of the next two fiscal years.

In the next biennium, my office will continue to focus on protecting Ohio's families.

Supporting law enforcement and battling drug abuse continue to be key priorities. Let me give you a brief overview of several important initiatives of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

### **Law Enforcement Training**

Having peace officers across Ohio who are well trained is critically important, and can literally mean the difference between life and death. I have never heard any law enforcement professional say that they wish they had less training.

#### *Immersive Scenario Based Training*

In 2014, after a number of officer-involved shooting incidents in Ohio and across the nation ended in tragedy, I wanted to analyze how Ohio trained its law enforcement officers, and look for ways to make that training better.

I called together a group of 16 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, community leaders, church leaders, and others to conduct this review as part of my "Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training."

As a result, Ohio became one of the first states in the nation to conduct an in-depth assessment of this kind.

The group came back with 29 recommendations for strengthening law enforcement training in Ohio, and most of those recommendations have now been implemented.

Among the recommendations was a call to create a training village where officers could sharpen their skills in a stress-inducing, realistic environment that replicates situations they were likely to encounter on the streets.

Earlier this month, OPOTA showcased phase one of the training village, which will eventually expand to eight structures. Of the two buildings opened in May, the first includes a 180-degree firearm simulator, where officers can respond to realistic scenarios and determine whether or not to use lethal force. The second building, the “shoothouse,” includes three rooms with four firearm simulators that offer nearly 500 scenarios. In addition, the main room has matted floors and walls, enabling officers to practice their takedown and arrest skills with role players.

Phase Two of the village will include additional firearm simulators and shipping container buildings with movable walls and staircases, so officers can train among different building layouts.

#### *CPT History*

With the help of the legislature, we have dramatically increased the continuing professional training (CPT) hours required following recommendations that the Attorney General’s Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training made in April of 2015.

In 2015 peace officers in Ohio were only required to have four hours of training. In 2016 that was increased to 11 hours. And in 2017 the hours have increased to 20 -- the most ever required in Ohio in a single year. The Advisory Group recommended that these hours increase to 40 hours of CPT per year.

To be eligible for reimbursement, the CPT must include the critical subjects of:

- Trauma-Informed Policing (6 hours), which will include how to effectively engage those suffering from mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance-abuse disorders.
- Practical Application of Force (4 hours), which will use scenario-based exercises to sharpen decision-making skills regarding use of force.
- Officer and Community Wellness (4 hours), which will focus on self-awareness and strengthening the legitimacy of law enforcement in communities.
- Legal Update (2 hours), which will provide an update on changes to Ohio law.
- A choice of general law enforcement topics (4 hours).

However, there is no ongoing revenue source to support CPT reimbursement. The current reimbursement requirement is \$20 per hour per officer. With roughly 34,000 officers in the state,

each hour of CPT costs approximately \$700,000. In order to continue to move toward the recommended 40 hours, we are looking at requiring 28 hours of CPT in calendar year 2018. The cost of CPT reimbursement for 28 hours would be \$19.6 million.

### **Battling Drug Abuse**

As heroin and other opioids continue to plague Ohio's communities, my office increased its assault on the problem by fostering grassroots coalitions, providing law enforcement with resources and support, and helping first responders who are dealing with the fallout. The stories are heartbreaking and seem to bring some fresh new horror each day. From the mom slumped over her steering wheel in an elementary school parking lot in Washington Court House to the parents in Berea who were charged with giving their seven-year-old son who overdosed access to heroin, no part of this state is immune. I am an optimist, but it will take the efforts of all of us to turn the tide on this epidemic. Let me take a moment to fill you in on some of our efforts.

- *Ohio START Program*: In March of this year I announced a new pilot program – Ohio START – that now will serve children and families harmed by parental opioid abuse in 19 southern Ohio counties. Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) is an intervention program that will provide intensive trauma counseling to children who have been abused or neglected due to parental addiction. It will also make drug treatment available to the parents of children referred to the program. My office will fund Ohio START through \$4,829,000 million in Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) grants.
- *K-12 Drug Use Prevention Committee*: With the help of former Senate President Faber and that of House Speaker Rosenberger, we formed the Ohio Joint Study Committee on Drug Use Prevention Education which recently issued its report urging age-appropriate drug prevention education be taught at each grade level.
- *Heroin Unit*: In 2013 I created a dedicated Heroin Unit which combines the skills of several commissions, agencies, sections, and specialists. Since its launch, the Heroin Unit has been and is currently involved in a number of major drug busts through BCI as well as state and federal task forces.
- *Community Outreach Team*: Our Community Outreach Team is a significant component of the Heroin Unit. The team has met with members of numerous communities and discussed the heroin issue at more than 130 events throughout every one of Ohio's 88 counties. The team assists community members with developing action plans to combat heroin and opioid abuse.
- *Naloxone Rebate and Freeze*: And, we extended an agreement with Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of Naloxone, to provide a \$6 rebate for each naloxone syringe purchased by nonfederal public entities, and we also reached an agreement with Adapt Pharma to freeze the price of its naloxone nasal spray for Ohio law enforcement, first responders, state and local government agencies, and community-based organizations.

During the House budget process, an amendment was added that would provide \$3.5 million in funding for crime labs to be used to fund opioid casework. The amendment earmarks \$2 million to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation crime lab and \$1.5 million to be distributed to accredited Ohio labs. I support this amendment as we are seeing a tremendous increase in the number and also the complexity of chemistry cases involving opioids that are being sent to crime labs.

Since I took office, the number of heroin submissions to BCI has more than doubled from 2,800 in 2011 to about 5,800 in 2016. The heroin increase has really strained the labs, but that alone isn't what is overwhelming crime labs across the state. Since 2011, the number of fentanyl and carfentanil submissions to BCI has increased by over 8,000%, from 31 submissions in 2011 to 2,610 submissions in 2016. To make things even more complicated, most opioid samples submitted to BCI today are mixtures that can contain heroin and fentanyl along with several other drugs. These mixed samples are more difficult to analyze and take longer to identify.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions.