

## **Jay Hottinger**

31<sup>st</sup> Ohio Senate District

### **Committees:**

Insurance and Financial Institutions, Chair  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Health, Human Services and Medicaid  
Transportation, Commerce and Workforce



## **Bob Hackett**

10<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District

### **Committees:**

Finance - Health and Medicaid Subcommittee, Chair  
Insurance and Financial Institutions, Vice Chair  
Agriculture  
Health, Human Services and Medicaid  
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs  
Ways and Means

### **Sponsor Testimony**

#### **Senate Bill 119**

**June 27, 2017**

#### **Senator Bob Hackett and Senator Jay Hottinger Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring Senate Bill 119 before you – Daniel’s Law. Daniel’s Law was brought to us by a father, Scott Weidle, who is striving to make a difference after his son’s tragic death from a heroin overdose, with a grassroots campaign effort to prevent opioid overprescribing in honor of his son. Daniel was a deeply loved father, son, brother and friend who was taken far too soon at the age of 30 as a result of an opioid addiction.

As you may know, Ohio leads the nation in opioid deaths both in prescription drug overdoses and heroin overdoses with over 3,000 deaths in 2016 a number which has grown every year since 2010. Furthermore, 80% of individuals who die from a heroin overdose have been entered into the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) and have been prescribed opioids by a physician or dentist.

For these reasons, S.B. 119 would prohibit a physician whose practice is primarily in a primary care specialty or a general dentist from prescribing more than a three-day supply of an opioid with a morphine equivalent daily does (MED) that exceeds 50 milligrams unless certain conditions are met.

A primary care physician or a general dentist may prescribe beyond the three-day limit – but not the 50 MED limit – if the opioid is prescribed for a period of not more than seven days and the physician or general dentist satisfies the following four conditions:

- completes eight hours of training related to opioid addiction approved by the Medical Board;
- utilizes an electronic medical records system that provides direct access to patient information from the OARRS;
- completes on an annual basis two hours of Board-approved continuing medical education related to opioid prescribing and

- is able to provide treatment for opioid dependence or addiction, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and is able to refer patients to individuals who provide those services.

S.B. 119 also specifies that the opioid prescribing limits established for primary care physicians do not apply to physicians who, as part of their regular practice, prescribe opioids in the following circumstances:

- when providing care in a hospice care program, nursing home, residential care facility, or hospital or
- when treating cancer or chronic pain.

In regards to chronic pain, the exception only applies if treatment is provided in accordance with Ohio's current chronic pain law.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes opioid addiction as a disease and this uniquely American epidemic as a public health crisis. Daniel's Law seeks to prevent opioid addiction from overprescribing. With proper codified prescribing guidelines, we believe there will be fewer Ohioans who will become addicted to opioids from an injury, medical or dental procedure. Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring Senate Bill 119 before you. We would be happy to answers any questions at this time.