



# DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



February 22, 2019

Chairman John Eklund  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund,

We write today to offer our support for Senate Bill 5, which increases the penalties for promoting prostitution offenses.

Currently in Ohio it can be difficult to have sufficient evidence for a 'trafficking in persons' charge. In many instances offenders will be charged with 'promoting prostitution,' a third-degree felony entailing 6-18 months in prison, and fines up to \$5,000. There is no enhancement for repeat offenders, allowing them to go back to their community and create more victims.

Senate Bill 5 would escalate repeat offenders and those also found guilty of drug trafficking to a third-degree felony. Those with 2 or more prior convictions would be escalated to a second-degree felony and subject to 2-8 years in prison. Senate Bill 5 assists law enforcement in ensuring that those who commit these heinous crimes receive appropriate prison time.

We commend Senator Stephanie Kunze and Senator Matt Dolan for their leadership on this issue. We would be happy to discuss this issue with you or any members of the committee at your convenience.

Sincerely,

**Dave Yost**  
Ohio Attorney General

**Ron O'Brien**  
Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney