



Corporate Offices | 6605 West Central Avenue | Toledo, Ohio 43617 | 419-841-7701

www.zepfcenter.org

March 15, 2019

Senator John Eklund
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Ohio Senate
1 Capital Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Eklund:

Please accept this letter as Zepf Center's support of Senate Bill 55, enhancing penalties for certain drug offenses committed in the vicinity of community addiction services providers. As one of the largest treatment providers in Northwest Ohio, we see the vulnerabilities of our patients who are in the very early stages of recovery.

We know that persons seeking to traffic or corrupt others with drugs often seek out treatment centers to look for potential victims. These individuals often know that persons with substance use disorders are vulnerable to relapse because the decision to enter into recovery is one of the most difficult decisions an individual struggling with addiction will ever make. It means parting from all the places, things and people in their lives they call friends that support their self-destructive behavior.

Treatment centers must be places where persons in recovery feel safe from the triggers and trappings of this deadly disease. We are grateful for the partnerships we have developed with our local law enforcement agencies to improve safety. This proposed legislation strengthens and supports their efforts to provide a safe and secure place where recovery can occur.

We strongly support Senate Bill 55 and applaud your efforts to enhance the safety of our patients as they continue their recovery.

Sincerely,

Deb Flores, BA, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
Zepf Center



Creating hope & recovery through integrated person-centered services

General Contact: 419-841-7701

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