



Testimony in Support of SB 55
Bruce L. Pijanowski, Delaware Police Department
Representing the OACP

Greetings Chairman Eklund, Vice Chairman Manning, and ranking member Thomas. My name is Bruce Pijanowski. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Delaware and I represent the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support to SB 55.

This proposed legislation would enhance penalties for certain drug offenses that occur within 1,000 feet of a “community addiction services provider.” This would provide that an aggravated trafficking offense committed in violation of this legislation would become an F3, from an F4.

As you all know, Ohio has been ground zero for the nation’s fight against opioid abuse and addiction. Many of our members have seen the ravages of drug addiction in their communities, and have worked to develop efforts to solve this problem, in many cases, working with addicts to help get them treatment. Unfortunately, when they finally come to the moment where they will seek treatment they remain vulnerable to their addiction, making it difficult for many to complete treatment and get clean. Drug traffickers that target these people, where they are most vulnerable, can be their biggest threat to defeating their fledgling attempt at sobriety.

Investing in the treatment, as opposed to the incarceration, of addicts is the responsible approach. Giving law enforcement the tools to protect them where they are most vulnerable is important as well.

The OACP feels that this legislation will help law enforcement ensure that those seeking treatment can do so in a safe and less stressful environment.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing me to provide written testimony to the committee.