

Senator John Eklund & the Senate Judiciary Committee  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Oh 43215

Dear Senator Eklund & Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Alonzo Edwards Jr. and I am representing the Ohio Organizing Collaborative from Montgomery County, Dayton; represented by Fred Strahorn Ohio House District 39. I want to start off by first applauding the Senate on including in the Bills proposal parking offenses committed near the Court House. Though not a driver myself, I have heard many testimonials of acquaintances getting a new ticket while at court for a prior ticket. However, I would like to address Misdemeanor Marijuana charges that were committed before the passing of Issue 8 in last Novembers Elections. I feel that if these cases were held in abeyance or expunged from an offender's record, others problems could be improved if not solved such as unemployment rates and discrimination in hiring against former or current marijuana users. Overall, I am for the passing of this bill for the sake reducing populations in jails and institutions and incarceration rates overall. Thank you for your time!

Alonzo Edwards Jr.  
Ohio Organizing Collaborative