



BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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ROBERT A. CORNWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 29, 2019

Honorable John Eklund, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund,

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Bob Cornwell and I am the Executive Director of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association. We have had an opportunity to review Senate Bill 3 as Introduced and are very concerned with its potential impact on local county jails and county budgets.

Converting non-violent 4th and 5th degree felonies to unclassified misdemeanors may and will deal a significant blow to an already overcrowded county jail system. Most county jails are ill equipped to deal with the overwhelming increase in drug related cases specifically females being housed at the local level. County jails are saturated with pre-trial detainees unable to meet bond or bail requirements. Using county jails as a sentencing alternative rather than DRC is a very expensive proposition as compared to the State facilities.

Many counties are transporting inmates to adjacent county jails or other county jails as far as 70 to 80 miles for a one way trip. The costs absorbed by the county for transportation, overtime, vehicle replacement and stress on employees is taking its toll on county budgets.

Alternative programs are just that, an alternative. Sentenced inmates that opted for treatment in lieu of incarceration have had some success but ultimately they return to the county jail for violating the terms and conditions of the drug treatment program or under new charges. We have seen this occur much too often.

PAST PRESIDENTS CURRENT SHERIFFS

2018
Michael L. Simpson
Preble County

2017
Mark Wasylshyn
Wood County

2016
Randy Thorp
Licking County

2015
Gene Fischer
Greene County

2013
E. Wayne Risner
Ashtand County

2012
Jeff Gray
Mercer County

2010
Timothy L. Rogers
Coshocton County

2007
Vernon P. Stanforth
Fayette County

2004
Michael E. Heldman
Hancock County

1997
Michael R. Hetzel
Wyandot County

1982
John R. Lanhart
Shelby County

OFFICERS

President
Matthew J. Lutz
Muskingum County
First Vice President
Phil R. Stammilli
Lorain County
Second Vice President
Keith A. Everhart
Hardin County
Third Vice President
Alton F. Solomon
Auglaize County
Treasurer
Janie Patton
Union County
Executive Secretary
George T. Maser
Stark County
Director At Large
Michael L. Simpson
Preble County

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Northeast District
John L. Hinton
Morrow County
Travis Hutchinson
Wayne County
Northwest District
Jason K. Landers
Paulding County
Thomas M. Riggensbach
Van Wert County
Southeast District
Ronald J. Myers
Harrison County
Larry Minkus
Washington County
Southwest District
Robert B. Redcliff
Pickaway County
Larry Sims
Warren County

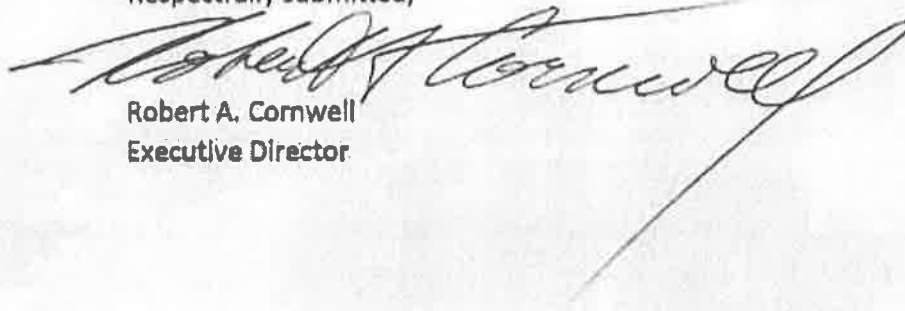
DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTORS

Northeast District
Kandy Fatheree
Summit County
Northwest District
Ryan Kidwell
Hancock County
Southeast District
Chad Dennis
Licking County
Southwest District
Detai Spain
Union County

We laud your attempt to somehow reduce the stigma of 'CONVICTED FELON'.
To provide an opportunity for a new start but treatment programs are
expensive and MUST last for 18 to 24 months at a minimum if they are to be
successful. County jails are more expensive.

I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Cornwell', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert A. Cornwell
Executive Director