

This is the summary of my testimony based upon 12 years of being a lawyer in Southeastern Ohio.

You can't legislate sobriety. A person has to want it before they make a change. There isn't anything that is changing in this bill that isn't already available for rehabilitation.

Jail is not as intimidating as prison. Most of the people that will be impacted by the proposed legislation have already been to jail and they don't care about that. Prison is terrifying to them though.

Personal use is still dangerous. Dealers are cutting "personal use" amounts with more dangerous drugs, and people don't realize that. Marijuana mixed with fentanyl is a real thing, and it's killing people.

If you want to actually make a change, make "residue" a misdemeanor. Create a repeat trafficker enhancement. Don't call possessing these drugs a "minor misdemeanor." Don't tell us that this is about collateral consequences of a felony conviction when the potential jail time is the same as the current potential felony sentence, and it's not making anyone else more eligible for intervention that what is already eligible.

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