

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HB 456
SUBMITTED BY ANDREA R. YAGODA, PRIVATE CITIZEN
HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Chair LaRe, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. My name is Andrea R. Yagoda, I have been a resident of Ohio since 1974. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 456.

The exemption for fentanyl strips is reasonable and life saving. Individuals should not be afraid of being charged with a crime if possessing and using these strips. Recent events in Ohio prove how important this bill is. Three (3) OSU students believing they were taking adderall suffered overdoses as the “Adderall” was laced with fentanyl. Two of these students died and one was hospitalized. The stimulant drug Adderall is often prescribed to treat attention disorders like ADHD. But some non-prescribed college students buy it from peers so they can increase productivity and stay awake longer, especially during more academically intense periods of the semester. Fentanyl testing strips could have saved two (2) lives and avoided hospitalization for the third. Students will not stop taking stimulants like Adderall to help them study and prepare for testing because no one thinks an overdose will happen to them. Students have been taking stimulants even when I was in college in 1971 and they will continue to do so.

According to students interviewed there have been more overdoses of which the public may not be aware as students are hospitalized or saved by naloxone. See:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/07/us/adderall-fentanyl-osu-deaths.html>

This is a life saving bill and I urge the committee to vote yes and save lives.

Andrea R. Yagoda

