

The logo consists of a solid red square. Inside the square, the word "FAITH" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below "FAITH", the words "IN PUBLIC LIFE" are written in smaller, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked on two lines.

FAITH
IN PUBLIC LIFE

SB 288

Proponent Testimony

Rev. Dan Clark

Ohio Director

Faith in Public Life

February 28, 2022

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony for the Good Samaritan provisions of SB 288, as well as offering 3 additional amendments.

As a minister, parent, friend, and community advocate, expanding Ohio's Good Samaritan provisions is very important to me. As a minister, I believe all people are made in the image of God and are worthy of love and care. As a parent, I want my teenage children to have the support of solid Good Samaritan provisions as they navigate their challenging adolescent years and may find themselves in the position to save the life of a friend in need of emergency medical care. As a friend, I grieve the loss of several friends who could have survived their drug use had the shame, stigma, and fear around seeking help been mitigated. And as a community advocate, I see Ohio topping the national charts regarding incarceration and overdose. We can do better! For all Ohioans!

I believe that three additional amendments to SB 288 will make it stronger legislation with the power to save lives and heal communities. First, remove restrictions for those on parole and probation (including community control or post release-control). People shouldn't be afraid to call for emergency services. Next, remove limitations on how many times an individual can receive the immunity. If my friends and family needed to intervene to save my life, I wouldn't want them to only do it once or twice, but as many times as it takes to usher me into wholeness. Finally, remove treatment assessment requirements. Drug use and recovery is

not one size fits all; not everyone needs treatment or is ready for it. This requirement only creates obstacles to living in safe and healthy communities.

Finally, I'm testifying today in honor of two deceased friends, S and D. Out of love and care for them and those they left behind, I thank you for hearing this testimony and urge you to approve the Good Samaritan provisions in SB 288 and adopt these three additional amendments.

Sincerely,

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