

MEDWAY DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Joshua Hunt, Director P.O. Box 872, Wooster Ohio 44691 Phone 330.262.0064

Representative Wiggam RE: Support of House Bill 265

Dear Representative Wiggam,

Medway is a local Drug Enforcement Agency in Wayne County Ohio. We are tasked with investigating narcotics users, traffickers and organizations responsible for supplying dangerous controlled and abused substances such as Methamphetamine, Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine. These organizations utilize any available means to establish a leg up and stay one step in front of agencies like Medway who attempt to dismantle them.

The majority of our operations are conducted covertly. We utilize covert vehicles, undercover Agents, and confidential informants to infiltrate and build cases against drug traffickers and organizations. As you can imagine a public records release of information that could include our current, future or past schedules could create several layers of issues for our Agency. First and foremost, the safety of our Agents and confidential informants. If a drug trafficker had knowledge of when we were working, any transaction we attempted during that time could turn into a situation where the drug trafficker may be on high alert, utilize more evasive techniques such as searching the person they are dealing with, or conduct increased counter surveillance methods to determine if Agents are in the area with the informants etc.. If a recording device is discovered it could potentially escalate into a high-risk informant or Agent rescue, or worse, violence toward one of them. Secondly, drug trafficking organizations with knowledge of our schedules would utilize it to determine when to move, transport, and distribute their controlled substances, currency and weapons associated with their crimes. This advantage would negatively impact our community.

Additionally, our Agents, both current and past, deal with extremely dangerous individuals. As a result, they and their families are at an increased risk for retaliation. I feel it is imperative to prevent these previous defendants and drug trafficking organizations from obtainin personal information of our Agents and their family members. House Bill 265 aims to restrict access to these documents.

Please accept this letter of support for House Bill 265.

Thank you,

Joshua Hunt, Director Medway Drug Enforcement Agency Wooster, Ohio, 44691 330-262-0064