



**Ohio State Senate
Health Committee
May 10, 2023
Interested Party Testimony on HB 33**

Good afternoon, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee. My name is Dr. Lisa Kugler, licensed psychologist, and I am the Senior Vice President of ATLAS for Shatterproof, a national nonprofit dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Substitute House Bill 33 regarding the need for the state to show the **quality** of addiction treatment facilities available for struggling Ohioans. Specifically, we are requesting a budget amendment to clarify that the existing \$400,000 currently allocated to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for an online addiction treatment facility resource requires the online resource provide **quality indicators** for addiction facilities. I would also like to note that this is a budget-neutral ask.

First and foremost, thank you to the members of this committee for their important work on mental health and addiction crisis efforts and the Legislature's commitment to combatting the opioid epidemic. In March of this year, I was honored to be invited by Senator Johnson to present to the Senate Community Revitalization Committee regarding Shatterproof's ATLAS platform and the need for quality information to be available to individuals and families facing addiction.

Shatterproof is a national non-profit founded in 2013 by Gary Mendell, who, after losing his son Brian to substance use disorder, recognized the need for a national organization to advocate for families impacted by this disease. Sadly, Gary's story is not an uncommon one. Gary channeled his grief into action, founding Shatterproof as a transformative force to reduce the number of lives lost to addiction.

At Shatterproof, we are committed to advancing three main principles to address the addiction crisis, in Ohio and throughout the United States:

1. Transforming addiction treatment

- We are **transforming addiction** treatment by encouraging changes to the health care system so that *all* Americans have access to evidence-based treatment that works. We developed a quality treatment locator called ATLAS to help people struggling with addiction find and access quality treatment to meet their needs.

2. Ending the stigma surrounding addiction

- We are **combating stigma** by challenging the attitudes and behaviors that prevent loved ones from seeking treatment.

3. Educating and empowering communities to address this scourge

- We are **educating and empowering communities** by providing resources to support those struggling with addiction, giving them the greatest opportunity to achieve sustained success on their recovery journey.

Shatterproof's ATLAS was developed in partnership with the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and provides real-time, important information to families seeking treatment, such as:

- What level of services are best aligned with the individual's needs
- Where the treatment program is located

- Whether the facility is using best practices
- What insurance or other methods of payment are accepted
- What groups the facility serves
- The types of treatment services offered
- **Importantly, this platform also contains feedback from patients who have received care at a facility**

ATLAS is currently integrated into 11 states across the country, including New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, West Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. By the end of 2023, we will be expanding into four additional states, including California, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Indiana, touching nearly 50% of the country.

We commend Governor DeWine for recognizing the substance use crisis that exists in Ohio and continuing to support initiatives that help individuals access treatment as well as prevention and education, including his recently announced new data dashboard system to better track data on overdose deaths and other substance-use related measures statewide.

However, as you all know so intimately, Ohio is still being ravaged by this epidemic. That is why the state should invest in a program that shows validated measures to assess the quality of addiction treatment facilities.

Research shows that addiction can be treated effectively using certain clinical practices, including having medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder and coordinating care. I think that we can all agree that when a person or family is in crisis, finding high quality substance use disorder care can be daunting and confusing to them. Shatterproof's ATLAS locator supports and guides individuals to the care that can support them on their recovery journey. Information contained in ATLAS helps demonstrate where patients are most likely to receive care, aligned with the best practices in the field, and likely to lead to the best outcomes. Shatterproof continues to build in additional measures aimed at gauging the outcomes of patients who go through treatment, which is information that can be used by state agencies and providers themselves to target interventions to improve quality of care. ATLAS also creates transparency into a patient's journey through treatment, by displaying reviews from other patients.

Unfortunately, another hurdle presented to those seeking assistance are predatory practices, which can be found on a simple google search for addiction treatment centers. For example, an Ohioan searching for a quality treatment facility may instead find a residential treatment center on the beach, rather than a quality option offered here within Ohio, covered by their insurance. Treatment shown by ATLAS has an American Society of Addiction Medicine endorsed screener that helps guide individuals to the most appropriate level of care. Currently there is limited transparency into how addiction treatment facilities in Ohio are performing and delivering on these evidence-based practices and what services would best support an individual on their recovery journey. ATLAS reports to the public whether treatment providers are delivering evidence-based treatments, providing integrated care, doing personalized assessments to tailor and adjust care, providing necessary medications and helping people connect to resources to improve their chance of successful treatment.

Investment in a technology platform for people seeking treatment, their families, providers, and health insurers is a key step toward improving the quality of addiction care nationally by setting clear and transparent expectations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today. I urge your support for this budget-neutral implementation of a web-based platform that accurately assesses the quality of addiction treatment facilities. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.



Lisa Kugler
Senior Vice President of ATLAS
Shatterproof