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Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 105
Ohio Senate Community Revitalization Committee
May 2, 2023

Vice Chair Hoagland and members of the Senate Community Revitalization Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 105.

This bill addresses some of the key concerns brought to my attention as I traveled the state last summer with the Senate Addiction and Community Revitalization Committee. As we seek to combat the opioid epidemic in Ohio, it is clear that changes need to be made in law to better protect those affected by this scourge and make local entities more effective in responding to this crisis.

First, to protect patients from bad actors and to provide a safer environment as they work through their recovery, this legislation bars unlicensed recovery housing from receiving taxpayer dollars and requires Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to create a registry of licensed facilities. It also prohibits licensed healthcare providers from partnering with unlicensed recovery housing.

Second, this bill requires OMHAS and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to develop standards and procedures for

Medicaid recipient data sharing with local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards. This ensures that the ADAMH Boards can provide the proper continuum of care for the individuals they serve. Under this legislation, OMHAS must also notify local ADAMH Boards of new service providers in their districts and initiate investigations of providers within 10 days of an ADAMH Board's request.

Lastly, Senate Bill 105 works to remove unnecessary red tape from ADAMH Boards in order to allow them to function more effectively. It does this by changing the requirements for Board composition, cleaning up certain language, and modifying the contract termination process between Boards and providers to allow Boards to negotiate a more favorable result for the patient.

In the evolution of its response to the opioid crisis, Ohio has continually leaned into the task and responded with funding and ever better methods of organization and administration. Yet clearly, we still have much room to improve. The local boards have an important role to play, and we need to make some modifications to policy to allow this to happen. The boards are, after all, closest to the problem and those in need throughout our state. This bill will establish a more productive balance to Ohio's continued efforts by optimizing cooperation between all concerned.

Thank you again for your attention to this important matter. Now I'd like to turn it over to this bill's joint sponsor, my colleague Ranking Member Sykes.