

I am Jeff Gaskin, the Mayor of South Point way down on Ohio's Southern Coast and my county is one of the counties with 300% of the needed treatment facilities. We have 3 resident houses and 3 day treatment facilities. We are a Village of 4,000.

Let me first say that my education and license is in drug and alcohol counseling. I say that to let you that I am not against drug treatment and rehab, I am echoing what my constituents want, that's what we are supposed to do, right?

I'm not here to complain so much about "bad actors" so much as quantity and location. I have two "good actors" in my town. Another small city in the county has 25 houses in a city of about 10,000. Most of them are not as good as my good ones. I understand well about ADA and Fair Housing. A year ago, I spent a day with OMHAS in an attempt help regulate the houses and learn more about our regulations.

I don't think many people are against drug and alcohol rehab, they just don't want to pay for it..... with our property values. I'm sure everyone here has a nice home, think of trying to sell it and you take the prospective couple out back to show them the pool. They hear a commotion next door and ask what is that? Oh, that is a drug rehab house. Would that negate your sale?

I have a friend that had a handshake deal to sell his house for \$350,000. They stepped out front talk more and asked what was across the street. It was a drug day treatment facility. They left and he finally got \$300,000 for the house.

Mornings, I have breakfast with a group of old men that solve all the problems of the world right there at the table. We generally have a resident of a local rehab at a table with his hoodie up taking a nap. We usually buy him a coffee. One of our houses is two blocks from the river. The neighbors tell me of a constant stream of people through the neighborhood to the riverside park.

I'm sure the 300 % is an average, but it means that for every Lawrence County resident in rehab, there are 3 from another county, usually from far away metropolitan areas. My good actors pay employees well and provide benefits. Others are in for the money, and the money is very good if you work it properly. One of mine is changing houses because of the housing quality.

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Most understand the need. And I don't have a magic bullet to fix it all, but I think this bill will begin to address the issues in our state. We have to have a measuring process to determine how much is needed in my community. This is why the Certificate of Need is important. We have had good luck with zoning, but I'm not sure they have to abide by it if they don't want to.

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