



Ohio Alliance Of Recovery Providers

**House Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 56
Opponent Testimony
June 4, 2025**

Chairman Thomas, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Issacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee — thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 56. My name is Brian Bailys, I am the CEO of Thrive Peer Recovery Services, but I write to you today representing the Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers (OARP) for which I serve as President. OARP is a statewide organization of addiction treatment providers, certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, whose members work to increase access to treatment and develop a recovery-oriented system of care for all Ohioans.

I want to express our profound concern with the changes in Senate Bill 56 regarding adult use marijuana tax revenue. As you're likely aware, Issue 2 created a substance abuse and addiction fund, and it specifically dedicated 25% of the tax receipts to this fund. Unfortunately, SB 56 repeals the substance abuse and addiction fund codified in Ohio Revised Code 3780.30 which, among other things, requires the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to "use the money in the fund to support addiction services or other services that relate to addiction and substance abuse."

Please know that OARP's members and I appreciate all the effort you have put into crafting reasonable and responsible adult-use marijuana legislation, and the important role our members play in Ohio's future with substance use and addiction issues. With that being said, I am sure you are aware that the community behavioral health field has faced increased demand for services with increased staff turnover. More than ever, Ohio needs a robust, reliable, and accessible behavioral health system, and I say that because we know what is coming having seen it before. After the casinos opened and again more recently with legalized sports betting, our providers have seen an increased need for gambling addiction treatment. With the legalization of adult-use marijuana, we need more resources to treat those who desperately need and seek our help. Without adequate funding, we cannot treat the number of Ohioans coming to us for services. Many residential treatment providers are operating at 50%-75% capacity because they are unable to attract sufficient staff to expand care. This is why eliminating the substance abuse and addiction fund in SB 56 is very concerning for those working in mental health and behavioral addiction treatment.

On behalf of the Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers, thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I just want to reiterate that funding to these vital services – especially from a dedicated funding source – will incentivize more workers to pursue careers in the community behavioral health system, retain and invest in the staff we currently have, and most importantly, it will allow providers to care for all those who need our services.

Brian Bailys
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