



Helping people change direction.

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

House Bill 96

Testimony of Alex Schafer on behalf of OneEighty and Wayne County

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Committee, my name is Alex Schafer and I'm the Assistant Clinical Director at OneEighty in Wayne County OH. I am here to speak in strong support of continued funding for the Addiction Treatment Program (ATP).

As someone who works directly with individuals seeking recovery, I have seen firsthand how ATP funding changes lives and promotes recovery. It removes critical barriers that prevent many individuals from entering or staying in treatment, such as transportation costs, rent and utility bills, and lack of insurance coverage. Without this support, many clients would be forced to choose between their recovery and basic needs.

I've worked with clients who, thanks to ATP funding, were able to attend programming, afford medications, and receive mental health and substance use treatment services. ATP gives clients a chance, and more importantly, it gives them hope. Because of ATP funding, clients are able to access the steel-toe boots needed to get back into construction, the scrubs necessary to work as a housekeeper at the local hotel, and the GED test needed to apply for more schooling. ATP funding has economic benefits to help people get back to work and stay in those jobs.

Beyond the individual, ATP funding supports and strengthens communities. When people are given a fair opportunity to recover, they become more engaged parents, more reliable workers, and more connected community members. It's an investment not just in treatment, but in public health and safety. Having clients reenter society sober means decreased healthcare costs and decreased numbers in our local jails.

I strongly encourage you to reinstate the preexisting ATP earmark and increase last year's funding from \$5 million per year to \$6 million per year over the biennium. This investment is critical to breaking down barriers for individuals entering treatment. The people who benefit from this program are not just numbers—they are parents, children, and neighbors. Through ATP, they are given a real opportunity to heal, reclaim their lives, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this vital issue. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Alex Schafer, MEd, LPCC-S  
Assistant Clinical Director