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Alvis - Columbus, Dayton,
Chillicothe

Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central
Ohio, Inc. - Newark

Community Assessment & Treatment
Services, Inc. - Cleveland

Community Corrections Association, Inc
- Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,
Talbert House - Lebanon

Community Transition Center - Lancaster

Community Treatment & Correction
Center, Inc. - Canton

CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana House,
Inc. - Tiffin

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF,
Oriana House, Inc. - Cleveland

Mahoning County CBCF, Community
Corrections Association, Inc. - -
- Youngstown

Ohio Link Corrections & Treatment, Inc.
- Lima & Toledo

Oriana House, Inc. - Akron and Cleveland

Salvation Army Harbor Light - Cleveland

Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc.
- Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon

Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio -
Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, Toledo

April 25, 2016

Representative Anne Gonzales
District 19
77 S. High St
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Gonzales:

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Community Corrections Association to offer our support of House Bill 248 which requires health plans to treat abuse-deterrent formulations of opiate drugs (ADOs) in the same way they treat the non-abuse deterrent versions. As you may remember, OCCA represents all Ohio Department of Rehabilitation licensed Halfway Houses and five non-profit Community-Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) across Ohio. These member agencies provide a range of community corrections programs including residential, day reporting, outpatient, electronic and GPS monitoring, mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as work release and aftercare.

Representative Robert Sprague's proposed legislation is a logical next step in addressing the loose ends that exist currently. Specifically the bill will:

- Prevent health plans from requiring a patient to "fail first" on an immediate release, non-abuse deterrent opioid before getting to an ADO. This limit is counter-intuitive as often a "fail" for our clients is an overdose that involves emergency first responders and may be a tremendous step backwards creating relapse scenarios.
- Create markers on the physicians for 90 day limitations of drugs and proving to the insurer that the need to be on the drug still exists. The idea here is that we need to limit the supply of opiates on the streets in order to get in front of the epidemic and by using more ADOs there are fewer "abuse-able" opiates on the streets.

Enacting House Bill 248 will add necessary tools in curbing the opiate addictions that are running rampant in all of Ohio's counties and in our residential community corrections and treatment facilities. Please let us know how we can assist the committee with any operations questions or testimony.

Thank you for considering this important measure. Please reach us via Kelly O'Reilly at Governmental Policy Group or Lusanne Green at the contact information on the letterhead.

Respectfully,

OCCA Executive Director
Lusanne Green

cc: members of the House Health & Aging Committee