

As a member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and a municipal Chief of Police, I would like to voice my opposition to the current language of legislation SB 3.

I admire that members of our legislature are thinking outside the box when it comes to drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation in lieu of incarceration however, I believe the current language has issues that will further hinder those affected by this horrible drug plague facing our state and our nation.

My greatest concern is that there has not been an opportunity for numerous voices to have an open and candid discussion on how we can potentially take on this issue. The even worse fear is that we are offering those who intend to use the sincere spirit of the law to violate our citizens even more.

There are far more implication to drug issues than simply reducing the ability of law enforcement and the courts to direct people in the best direction. Law enforcement and the courts throughout this state have already initiated many of the changes that are showing some dividends in rehabilitating people out of the drug culture.

I am concerned that this legislation will be pushed through a General Assembly that ends soon and completely, and appears to be intentionally, minimize our law enforcement organizations ability to join forces with you in this worthwhile effort.

We continue to fight together against so many addictions and I am appalled that we are going to reduce narcotics and opiates to a degree potentially less than alcohol which will have greater consequences to offenders.

Fast, unvetted legislation will potentially result with a potentially worse effect. It undermines law enforcement and the court to provide real solutions with real cases of real people. This legislation, with its potential to shift financial burden to the local governments couldn't come at a worse time with the COVID-19 pandemic reaching a potential peak causing severe reductions to local economies and stretching local resources beyond anything anyone in this lifetime has witnessed.

I fully support a healthy debate and discussion among all those potentially affected with the new General Assembly; that is within the next month and I believe we can work together to come up with a great bill to help Ohioans in need.

Respectfully,

Keith N. Loreno
Chief of Police
Fostoria Police Division
213 S. Main St.
Fostoria, OH 44830
(419) 435-8573 ext. 216