

**December 4, 2020**

Members of the Ohio State House,

I'm writing to express my support for Senate Bill 3.

While Ohio has much to be proud of, it has also been the epicenter of the opioid crisis and of racial overincarceration. It is time to break this cycle of failure. SB3 aims to reduce incarceration rates in Ohio by 2,500 individuals per year and move drug addicted individuals into treatment programs and out of prisons. As a proud Buckeye, and champion for racial and social justice, I wholeheartedly support this effort and urge you to join me by voting yes on SB3.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, Ohio currently has nearly 80,000 people behind bars, the vast majority of which are Black Americans. While Ohio's population is 12% Black, its prison population is 43% Black, which does not include the individuals caught in the system of probation and parole. It is time for change.

Senate Bill 3 would reduce the level of possession offenses from felonies to misdemeanors and decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. It would also move a large number of low-level offenders with drug addictions into treatment programs. These reforms have proven to be impactful in reducing incarceration and improving public safety in other states and I urge Ohio to do the same by passing this bipartisan criminal justice reform legislation – legislation that has already passed out of the Senate with an overwhelming vote of 25-4.

I am proud to be part of the Ohio State family, a community I will always be connected to. The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation continues to invest in Ohio and works to effectuate positive change in the lives of youth, particularly those in underserved communities. I've seen the need and I respectfully urge the House chamber to pass SB 3 so these necessary reforms can be put to work.

Thank you,

*Malcolm Jenkins*

**Malcolm Jenkins**

Ohio State University, Class of 2009 & Winner of the Jim Thorpe Award  
Two-time Super Bowl Champion & Three-time Pro-Bowl Safety for the New Orleans Saints  
Co-Founder of the Players Coalition  
Founder of The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation