



**Ohio Mayors Alliance
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 328-Written Testimony
October 21, 2021**

Chairman Carruthers, Vice Chairman Pavliga, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the House Behavioral Health & Recovery Supports Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest cities and suburbs, we write to you today in support of House Bill 328. As mayors on the frontlines of the opioid epidemic, we have long advocated for the creation of an executive level office to better coordinate Ohio's response to drug addiction.

By creating a pathway for information and resources to be shared amongst state agencies and local governments, entities would be better able to coordinate and communicate, leading to a more efficient government.

When DeWine entered office, he formed RecoveryOhio because he knew this level of coordination and access was critical to Ohio's mental health and addiction services, however each new administration should not be tasked with forming this entity. Just as Ohio will always have residents who struggle with drug addiction, Ohio should have an office tasked with drug use prevention and treatment. By putting this Office of Drug Policy into law, we can ensure the state has institutional knowledge of drug addiction, its impact on the state, and how it can work to treat the disease.

As a bipartisan group of mayors, we were excited to see the bipartisan support this bill received in the last General Assembly and hope to see the bill continue to progress further.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keary McCarthy", written over a white background.

Keary McCarthy
Executive Director, Ohio Mayors Alliance