



WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
RECOVERY SUPPORTS COMMITTEE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY
HB 328

October 21, 2021

Chair Carruthers, Vice Chair Pavliga, Ranking Member Boyd and Members of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony support of HB 328, which would create the Governor's Office of Drug Policy as a means to help combat Ohio's ongoing opioid epidemic.

Each of our 700 member municipalities have been touched by the effects of the opioid abuse crisis experienced across Ohio. The establishment of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy by HB 328 would help local governments in their fight on the front lines of this ongoing epidemic by coordinating opioid abuse abatement efforts across state agencies and local governments. The office would facilitate both drug treatment and prevention efforts and ensure information and best practices are being shared across the state agencies and Ohio's local communities. These efforts would help ensure that the resources deployed by both local first responders and state agencies are being used efficiently and effectively.

Municipalities are the first line of defense in the battle against Ohio's opioid abuse crisis. First responders in cities and villages across the state often lack adequate staffing and funding in their fight against this epidemic in their local communities. HB 328 recognizes that need and seeks to take action by creating an office that can help both the state and its local governments respond to this crisis with effective coordination and adequate resources. The League thanks Rep. Brown for recognizing this pressing need working to address it.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for the favorable passage of HB 328.

Respectfully,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League