



## **State Representative Dontavius Jarrells**

### **Representative's Sponsor Testimony on Behalf of HB 453 Establishing the "Recovery is Beautiful" Specialty License Plate**

Thank you members of the Transportation and Public Safety committee, Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, and Ranking Member Sheehy for allowing us to testify on behalf of HB 453.

This important legislation would establish the "Recovery is Beautiful" specialty license plate to provide individuals and families with hope and encouragement who have overcome or are in the process of recovery. This legislation would also provide additional funding to expand recovery supports when individuals experience a mental health or substance abuse problem.

"Recovery is Beautiful" is not just a message, it is a pathway to services and a way to spark conversations that reverse the negative stigma society has towards those who may struggle with mental or substance abuse.

Did you know that more than two million of Ohio's 11 million citizens experience some form of mental disorder. Yet, only 47% receive any form of treatment from either the public system or private providers. That is why the proceeds from the recovery license plate sales will go into a fund designated to support recovery throughout Ohio. This fund would support the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR).

While this bill highlights the commonality of mental disorders here in our state, more importantly, it highlights the individuals and those who have found the strength to overcome addiction. It offers hope and support from the loved ones who stayed by their side during this journey as well. It is important that we make a bold presence and take part in the involvement of those in recovery as a state to show that as legislators, we truly believe in a person's ability to recover.

It's through the power of recovery that we empower voices, increase awareness, and eventually obliterate stigma.

Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions.