



A
Renewed
Mind
Behavioral Health

Representative Theresa Gavarone
77 S. High Street/ 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

December 4, 2017

Re: HB 296

State Representative Gavarone,

The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) has provided several research studies that directly links cues, otherwise known as triggers in the Recovery world, to relapse. Consequently, legislation that would prohibit or drastically reduce cue exposure to individuals struggling with addiction, especially in early recovery, would be impactful for three critical reasons:

First, cues are very closely related to relapse. Years of treatment experience supported by PET scan reports published in NIDA clearly demonstrate the injurious relationship. Again, if this can be prohibited, individuals' recovery success rates would improve.

Secondly, dealers who attend sober support functions and/or meetings are clearly acting in a way that could harm a person up to and including death. To attend specific functions knowing that individuals vulnerable to addiction are present with the intent to sell illicit drugs is predatory behavior. This should be addressed and individuals held responsible for behaving in such a manner.

Finally, safety is a concern when individuals attend support functions and/or meetings carrying drugs, often illicit in nature. While individuals in recovery would welcome a person who may not be ready to participate in recovery, the danger that accompanies the aforementioned predatory behavior is, again, unsafe to not only persons in recovery, but the community in general.

In conclusion, I offer my support of the House Bill.

Respectfully,

Matthew D. Rizzo
CEO, President
A Renewed Mind