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[www.zepfcenter.org](http://www.zepfcenter.org)

December 5, 2017

Representative Nathan Manning  
Chair, House Criminal Justice Committee  
The Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Manning:

Zepf Center supports House Bill 296, enhancing penalties for certain drug offenses committed in the vicinity of community addiction services providers. As one of the largest treatment providers in Northwest Ohio, we see the vulnerabilities of our patients who are in the very early stages of recovery.

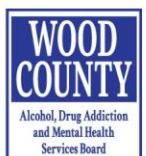
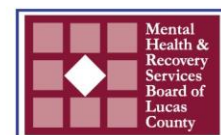
We know that persons seeking to traffic or corrupt others with drugs often seek out treatment centers to look for potential victims. These individuals often know that persons with substance use disorders are vulnerable to relapse because the decision to enter into recovery is one of the most difficult decisions an individual struggling with addiction will ever make. It means parting from all the places, things and people in their lives they call friends that support their self-destructive behavior.

Treatment centers must be places where persons in recovery feel safe from the triggers and trappings of this deadly disease. We are grateful for the partnerships we have developed with our local law enforcement agencies to improve safety. This proposed legislation strengthens and supports their efforts to provide a safe and secure place where recovery can occur.

We strongly support House Bill 296 and applaud your efforts to enhance the safety of our patients as they continue their recovery.

Sincerely,

Deb Flores  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Zepf Center



Creating hope & recovery through integrated person-centered services

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