



NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Honorable Members of the Ohio House Health Committee,

I am writing the Committee to give my support to HB231. As a Police Chief, first responder and someone who is actively involved in the heroin battle, HB231 seems to be a simple tool of offering a consumer a very inexpensive lock box that could be used creating an obstacle to help prevent abuse. This would go a long way to help reduce either accidental or intentional misuse use of strong prescription opiate medications. The heroin/opiate epidemic is so complex with so many tentacles that impact various issues. Having several options are the approach we must take to find solutions. Each tool that we can have to make it more difficult to misuse such powerful drugs helps take away one of those tentacles and helps to prevent further abuse or transition to other drugs such as heroin, Fentanyl or Carfentinal which have wreaked havoc on lives, resources and communities.

We know that 75% of those addicted to heroin started from prescription medication. Each event that prevents someone from falling into the devastation of addiction not only helps that person but also their family, does not add more strain on first responder resources and helps keep communities vital. Being overwhelmed at the moment with overdoses and crimes due to heroin addiction HB231 may help reduce future addiction and make it more difficult for those already in the grip of addiction to take an opportunity of temptation.

Of all the complexities of the heroin/opiate addiction that will require difficult and complex debates along with solutions, HB231 seems to be an easy decision. It is very low cost to the consumer, little extra strain on pharmacies, the extra work actually will lead to better awareness for the public and the ability to simply lock powerful opiate medications may save a life which makes HB231 all worth it.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this letter.

Col. Thomas W. Synan Jr.
Chief of Police
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Hamilton County Heroin Coalition
Steering Committee- Interdiction

