

OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

196 EAST STATE STREET • SUITE 200 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

TELEPHONE 614/221-1266 • FAX 614/221-0753 • WWW.OHIOPA.ORG

John E. Murphy
Executive Director

SB-1; Drug Laws
Proponent Testimony
February 14, 2017
Senate Judiciary Committee

Our association supports SB-1 that makes certain amendments to strengthen Ohio's drug laws. The proposals to strengthen the laws applicable to fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds are of particular importance.

We believe that fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds, which are much more potent than other commonly used drugs, are particularly dangerous and are contributing substantially to the present spate of deaths resulting from overdoses. We therefore think the penalties for the possession and trafficking in these substances should carry higher penalties than those provided for in current law. This bill increases the penalties in these cases to a more appropriate level.

We also support the provision that a sentence for involuntary manslaughter based on drug trafficking should be required to be served consecutively to any sentence for the underlying drug trafficking offense.

We therefore support the enactment of SB-1.

cc: Sen. Frank LaRose

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