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John E. Murphy
Executive Director

May 23, 2017

Rep. Jim Hughes
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Rep. Hughes:

As you know, we have long advocated for additional penalties for offenders who leave their victims in a seriously debilitated state. In many cases, crime victims can fully recover. Even in serious assault cases, oftentimes the victims heal completely and can get back to carrying on a normal life.

But when these criminals cause serious, permanent, debilitating harm, they have in effect robbed their victims of a normal life. Many will never again be able to care for themselves, hold a job, or even live independently. In these circumstances, our criminal laws should provide for substantially greater penalties beyond the normal range of penalties for felonious assault, attempted murder, and other similar offenses of violence.

Your HB-63 goes in the right direction in requiring additional penalties in felonious assault cases in which the use of an accelerant caused permanent serious disfigurement or permanent substantial incapacity. Frankly, we would like to see a broader application and a higher penalty. But your bill would at least apply a higher mandatory penalty in these cases.

For that reason, we support the enactment of HB-63.

Sincerely,

John E. Murphy
Executive Director