



**Ohio Senate  
General Government and Agency Review Committee  
October 2, 2019**

Good Afternoon, Chairman Schuring, Vice Chairman Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a proponent in consideration of House Bill 10 ("HB 10"), a bill to establish a Governor's Office of Drug Policy. My name is Jodi Salvo, and I am the Director of Substance Use Prevention Services for OhioGuidestone and the Coordinator of the Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition. I am a licensed social worker and an Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant. The work of our prevention department and county coalition is to use best practices and evidence based strategies to reduce youth substance use. We are committed to convening community stakeholders to address substance use and mental health issues and creating solutions that will lead to healthy and thriving individuals, families and communities.

Speaking on behalf of Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition and as a member of the Tuscarawas County Opiate Task force, we recognize that there are many challenges that communities face to address substance use and addiction issues. However, we know that when we have resources, support, use best practices, we are effective in the work we do. The establishment of the Office of Drug Policy within the Office of the Governor makes sense.

House Bill 10 will provide us a system to incorporate the latest research and evidence into the prevention and treatment of substance misuse and addiction. It will afford communities to network better, as we will be able to share and adopt what is working across the state and nation. When each community is healthy, we are better as a whole. The potential of this office to coordinate and share information, best practices and eliminate barriers that impede many from getting the services they need is a game changer to creating a healthier and stronger Ohio.

There are many promising aspects within this bill that would assist the work that is being done in our communities across the continuum. In particular;

- Coordinating drug-related efforts from across various state agencies and local governments
- Sharing information with state agencies and local governments about the measures adopted by other agencies and local governments
- Seeking an increase in funding and resources for drug use prevention and treatment, including through partnerships with the private sector
- Establishing a telephone hotline to assist individuals and local communities in preventing and reducing drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death;
- Establishing a database of federal, state, and local resources that are available for drug use prevention and treatment, providing the public with access to information maintained in the database (including from the Governor's website), and notifying callers to the hotline of the database;
- Conducting outreach activities (including through television, radio, and other media)

The creation of this office along with its 5.5 million dollar appropriation would aid the work being done on the ground tremendously and would strengthen the foundation of progress that we have made for years to come.

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 10, and I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.