



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration
Office 614-728-5458
Fax 614-466-5087

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Chairman John Eklund
Senate Judiciary Committee
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund:

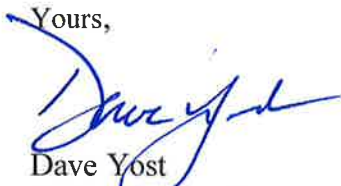
I write today to offer my support for Senate Bill 156, legislation which would prohibit defrauding an alcohol, drug, or urine screening test through the use of synthetic urine, a urine additive, or the urine of another. I appreciate the opportunity to lend my support to this measure.

Current Ohio law does not prohibit defrauding a urine screening test which can lead to an unsafe workplace and other public safety hazards. By criminalizing this offense, Ohio is creating another strong incentive for job seekers and others to get clean and stay clean. Eighteen other states already prohibit the use of synthetic urine, including the neighboring states of Indiana, Michigan, and West Virginia. With the passage of SB 156, those who decide to use drugs will no longer be able to game the system without consequences.

As part of my office's review of this legislation, we respectfully asked the bill's sponsor to consider inserting an exemption to allow the use of these substances for bona fide law enforcement purposes. Undercover law enforcement officers may sometimes use these substances within the scope of their duties. I appreciate Senator Gavarone's willingness to accommodate this change, and I commend her for her leadership on this issue and for bringing this bill before the committee.

It is my firm belief that individuals working on their recovery will be more likely to escape the chains of addiction if we make it harder to cheat existing public safeguards. I am happy to discuss this issue with you at your convenience, or with any of the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Yours,



Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General