

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Ohio House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I hope my input will help you better understand the impact the ADAMHS involvement at the local level is to assuring quality healthcare for those in recovery for addiction.

As a County Commissioner I see and hear the impacts addiction is having on our community. Our first responders are overwhelmed and our budgets are stretched to the max. Crime is on the rise and overdoses continue at an alarming pace.

The number of treatment providers and residential housing have skyrocketed in our community over the last 3-5 years. Yet with this increased capacity our overdose and death numbers rise and more and more strain is placed on our community. The proliferation of out of town clients seeking treatment in Portsmouth/Scioto County is only adding to our fiscal strain at the municipal and county level. In my humble opinion, we have reached a tipping point. This tipping point is best defined when local private resources can no longer support quality healthcare for those in treatment, and local government can no longer fund the ever increasing needs to provide for the safety of its citizens as a result of strains on staffing and overall costs.

As mentioned before crime is on the rise and citizens, especially business owners, are angry. Unfortunately, a stigma against treatment centers does exist in our community and not necessarily underserved in some cases. A never ending rotation of treatment, dropping out of treatment, for some jail, and crime, is pervasive. All of this leads me to my point.

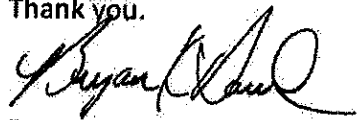
I am a firm believer in more local control of the monitoring and approval of treatment providers. I think most tax paying citizens want to see local government and resources recover their old vigour and independence. I believe that ADAMHS should be VERY involved in the certification process and be a strong part of investigations. In other words, what the State and Federal Governments know, local ADAMHS Boards should know. I believe lack of visibility and oversight at the local level has allowed some treatment providers to prey upon victims instead of helping victims. By and by our local ADAMHS Boards have lost the power to oversee these establishments. Critical visibility of Medicaid data that better allows Boards to monitor for abuse and to assure a quality organization is in place has been stripped and this data is not shared in a responsive way. The tax payers deserve more oversight and local oversight is best. More local control of Board composition is vital. After all, who knows the needs of the community better than those who live in it? At the local level we look into the eyes and hearts of those we serve every day. By doing so you learn things that otherwise can't be learned, and you use better judgement because you have the facts, at times, literally right around the corner.

Rep. Swearingen's bill HB523 helps address these issues. It provides better oversight and control. While more needs done to address other issues, this bill addresses the deterioration of

ADAMHS Board controls and that of a system that has long been in place to assist in the recovery of addicted individuals in our Counties.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today and I am available for any questions on or off topic of my testimony today.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan K. Davis", written in a cursive style.

Bryan K. Davis

Scioto County Commissioner