



BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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ROBERT A. CORNWELL
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October 10, 2023

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Honorable Haraz Ghanbari,
House Homeland Security Committee

Dear Chairman Ghanbari,

I come to you today in support of House Bill 230 as introduced. The changes being recommended to the Trafficking in Persons section of the Revised Code are long overdue. The increase of penalties for fentanyl-related compounds is also long overdue.

I have visited the Southern Border of the United States and witnessed the travesties and listened to the stories of the migrants that are passing undetected through our border. The cost of human carnage and the devastation of families is real. Trafficking in persons is more prevalent now than ever before. Men, women, and children are being exploited for the greed and benefit of the Mexican Cartels.

Fentanyl is crossing the Southern Border with the illegal migrants and distributed nationwide. Fentanyl-related compounds are killing Americans at an alarming rate. You, we must put an end to the effects of the drug related deaths of our children, family and friends.

Please take this first step in penalizing those individuals that participate in the operation and organization of trafficking in persons as well as increasing the penalties for the deadly fentanyl crisis hitting our communities.

Sheriff Malcum J. Jaimie Patton, President
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association

PAST PRESIDENTS CURRENT SHERIFFS

2022
Phil R. Stammitti
Lorain County

2021
Keith A. Everhart
Hardin County

2019
Matthew J. Lutz
Muskingum County

2018
Michael L. Simpson
Preble County

2017
Mark Wasylshyn
Wood County

2016
Randy Thorp
Licking County

2013
E. Wayne Risner
Ashland County

2012
Jeff Grey
Mercer County

2007
Vernon P. Stanforth
Fayette County

2004
Michael E. Heldman
Hancock County