

Hello, my name is Djuan Wash. I'm writing today to advocate against the passage of HB230. I come from a family impacted by the horrors of addiction myself included. The increased penalties in HB230 will exacerbate the overdose crisis, do nothing to reduce drug supply or demand in our state, and only lead to over-policing and enforcement, which undermines the efforts of people like us on the front lines of preventing overdose deaths.

While well-intentioned, this bill traffics in the deadly myth that overdose deaths can be prevented with more punishment and harsher penalties. There is no empirical evidence that DIH prosecutions save lives. Analyses of drug-induced homicide practices in jurisdictions in New Jersey, Tennessee, North Carolina, Illinois, Louisiana, and New York, found that despite dramatic growth in drug-induced homicide prosecutions, all of the jurisdictions experienced significant increases in overdose deaths, ranging from 7.6% to 20.1% in a single year. [Source https://bit.ly/DIHFairJust](https://bit.ly/DIHFairJust)

- Ohio is [third in the country](#) for Drug Induced Homicide prosecutions and [fifth in the country](#) for overdose fatalities, showing that harsher prosecution does not reduce death.
- Here's some [research with citations & brief summaries](#) of the relevant points around why harsher sentences don't work

Ohioans need and deserve solution based alternatives to incarceration. Carceral responses to public health issues and the war on drugs has failed us, increasing the amount of people who go to prison while barely making a dent in the addiction crisis. I implore you to think more deeply on how to approach this issue and to vote against HB230.