

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Latta  
U.S. House Representative for Ohio

Dear Mr. Latta,

My name is Lyndsey Sitterly and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing, and I am about to graduate and enter the healthcare field. I am writing to you hoping for continued support for the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act. Drug addiction has greatly increased in the state of Ohio in the past few years, and there are increasing reports of overdoses in younger populations. According to the USDA, “In 2020, the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths increased 31% compared to 2019. Adults aged 35-44 experienced the highest rates of drug overdose deaths while young people aged 15-24 experienced the greatest percentage increase in deaths” (*Opioid misuse*, n.d.). This is very alarming for healthcare workers across the country as this indicates a dramatic increase in patients needing acute care for overdoses and other adverse effects of drug use. Doty states, “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2020 reports a drug overdose death rate of 47.2 per 100,000, which is well above the national average of 28.3” (Doty, 2022).

Those with a substance abuse issue most likely need assistance in receiving treatment as they may not have the funds or insurance coverage to cover costs. These individuals may not even know what resources are available to them to assist with this as well, since substance abuse is very stigmatized in society. Some may be hesitant to seek this help because of the fear of judgement that is so common nowadays. Providing more resources for people to become more educated about this issue as well as resources to seek treatment will help improve the overall welfare of the population. As the bill aims to expand these programs to further assist those who can utilize these resources, it is so important to promote the health of this population and expand awareness of the issue. I have seen firsthand through my personal life and clinical experience how much substance abuse affects the individual and their families in so many aspects. This issue is very important to me, and not everyone truly understands the severity of this crisis.

I appreciate you supporting this bill along with many others, as this also brings awareness to the need of further resources to help care for those struggling. There are many resources available in Ohio who are diligently tracking how many individuals have reached out about their substance abuse, and if there is anything I could assist with in connecting with these facilities, my email is [lyndseysitterly@gmail.com](mailto:lyndseysitterly@gmail.com). Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Sitterly

References:

Doty, A. (2022, December 12). *Drug Trends in Columbus: Key Statistics and Insights*. The Recovery Village Columbus. <https://www.columbusrecoverycenter.com/drugs/ohio-abuse-overdose-statistics/>  
*Opioid misuse in rural America*. (n.d.). USDA. <https://www.usda.gov/topics/opioids>