

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Kellie Deeter  
U.S. House Representative for Ohio

The Honorable Jon Husted  
U.S. Senator for Ohio

The Honorable Bernie Moreno  
U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear Members of Congress,

My name is Presley Stang, and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I am writing to address a critical health issue that affects both Ohio and the world: substance abuse. This ongoing public health crisis includes tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, opioids, and prescription painkillers, all of which have significant impacts on individuals, families, and communities.

Substance abuse is particularly devastating in Ohio, with the opioid epidemic taking a heavy toll, alongside continued issues with alcohol and tobacco use. The consequences extend beyond those directly affected, straining our healthcare system, local economies, and families. As a nursing student, I see firsthand the impact of substance use disorders (SUDs) and am concerned about the long-term effects on public health.

Prevention is key. While treatment is necessary, preventing the initiation of substance use is crucial in reducing the future burden on individuals and communities. Early intervention, education, and community programs are essential to help individuals, particularly youth, avoid substance misuse.

I urge you to prioritize policies that support substance use prevention, expand community education, and increase access to prevention programs. By focusing on prevention, we can reduce the devastating impact of substance abuse in Ohio and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Presley Stang  
Nursing Student  
Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing, Sandusky, Ohio

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