

Substitute Senate Bill 3

Senate Bill 3 is more of the same misguided policy that we saw in State Issue 1. It shifts costs and responsibility to local government, does absolutely nothing to address the underlying problems associated with drug abuse, undermines treatment, and sacrifices public safety. Ohio will have some of the most liberal drug laws in the nation.

Ohio will become a haven for drug traffickers.

- (1) Just calling something “aggravated trafficking” or “major trafficking” does not mean you are getting tough on traffickers.
- (2) Senate Bill 3 creates a better environment for drug traffickers in Ohio. It allows a person to possess or sell a larger amount of drugs and receive a lighter punishment.
- (3) Under current law, someone caught trafficking 100 doses of heroin is guilty of an F2 and has to be sent to prison. Under SB 3 a person caught trafficking 299 doses of heroin is guilty of an F3 and may be sentenced to probation.
- (4) Under current law someone caught trafficking 100 doses of meth is guilty of an F2 and has to be sent to prison. Under SB 3 a person caught trafficking 599 doses of meth is guilty of an F3 and may be sentenced to probation.
- (5) Traffickers will carry around small amounts so that they can receive probation. They will have little incentive to cooperate with law enforcement to identify other traffickers and will be sent right back to dealing drugs.
- (6) Decriminalizing trace amounts makes it difficult to get probable cause for a search. A person could have a car trunk full of drugs and a drug dog will not be able to provide probable cause to search the trunk because the dog doesn’t know if it is a trace amount or trunk full of drugs. Dealers will be free to travel throughout Ohio.
- (7) Cartels can’t wait.
- (8) Regardless of any sympathy for drug addicts, why go easy on drug traffickers – the people fueling the addiction?

Drug users will be free to use with little accountability. Treatment will be less successful.

- (1) Decriminalizing trace amounts makes it more difficult to get people who may have an addiction problem into treatment. Their addiction will escalate. This is the lesson of the “Good Samaritan” law.
- (2) Reducing drug possession offenses to misdemeanors sends a bad message to kids that drugs like heroin and meth are not very dangerous. That sticking a needle in your arm is no more dangerous than underage drinking. It will lead to more experimentation, more addiction, and more death.
- (3) Reducing drug possession offenses to misdemeanors undermines legislative efforts to get people well. The threat of a felony and the threat of prison are essential to promote recovery.
- (4) If people are addicted they will not be employable whether possession is called a felony, a misdemeanor, or nothing at all. By undermining treatment the bill undermines workforce development.
- (5) There is no personal accountability in Senate Bill 3.

Public safety will suffer.

- (1) These are not “low-level” offenses. No matter how many times we are told so. Drugs like heroin and meth are dangerous and deadly. Our laws should reflect that.
- (2) Senate Bill 3 makes possession of up to 49 doses of heroin and 59 doses of meth a misdemeanor. This is far more than addicts have for personal use. For all intents and purposes this makes drug trafficking a misdemeanor crime. The cartels will be thrilled.
- (3) Drug abuse drives other crime in our communities from theft, to burglary, to robbery, to domestic violence, to human trafficking. Reducing the penalties for drug abuse and making it harder to get people into treatment will lead to more widespread problems for public safety.

Senate Bill 3 is bad for Guernsey County and Ohio
Let your voice be heard!

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