



BUCKEYE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sheriffs Blast Issue 1: Irresponsible for Ohio

COLUMBUS – Ohio's County sheriffs today condemned Issue 1, which would liberalize Ohio's drug laws, as irresponsible at a time when deaths from deadly drugs like fentanyl continue to rise.

Sheriff Mike Simpson of Preble County, President of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, said, "Issue 1 is bad for law enforcement. Right now we need all the help we can get to trap the traffickers. Now is not the time for a high-risk, unproven approach that will remove the threat of jail for possession of even large amounts of drugs."

PAST PRESIDENTS CURRENT SHERIFFS

2017
Mark Wasylshyn
Wood County

2016
Randy Thorp
Licking County

2015
Gene Fischer
Greene County

2013
E. Wayne Risner
Ashland County

2012
Jeff Grey
Mercer County

2010
Timothy L. Rogers
Coshocot County

2007
Vernon P. Stanforth
Fayette County

2004
Michael E. Heldman
Hancock County

1997
Michael R. Hetzel
Wyandot County

1982
John R. Lenhart
Shelby County

Bob Cornwell, executive director of the Association, added, “Not only will Issue 1 make our jobs more difficult, but it will also result in huge cost increases for local government when most local governments are feeling a pinch anyway.”

Simpson added, “One of the problems we face is that the cartels are always working to stay one step ahead of us. We have to be nimble and flexible to counter the continuing changes in the drug scene.”

For instance, Simpson added, in just eight years we’ve gone from a prescription drug abuse problem, to a heroin and cocaine problem, to what is now a major problem with deadly fentanyl. “Yet Issue 1 would lock our drug laws into the Ohio Constitution where changing them is a lengthy process of a year or more, Simpson said. “This is exactly the wrong thing to be doing in the present situation.”

Cornwell said sheriffs across Ohio will join with local elected officials, business leaders, non-profit and religious leaders to carry the message that Issue 1 will mean more drugs on our streets, and more deaths from overdoses.