



RESOLUTION NO. 11-03-02

Support of SB 10 & HB 86: Prison Reform

WHEREAS, SB 10, sponsored by Senators Shirley Smith (D) and Bill Seitz (R) and its companion bill HB 86, sponsored by Representatives Louis Blessing (R) and Tracy Heard (D) were introduced in February 2011, to reform Ohio's Prison System and would make widely-supported, commonsense changes to Ohio's criminal and juvenile justice systems that would save the State of Ohio millions of dollars each year while having no adverse impact on public safety; and,

WHEREAS, More than half of the inmate population serve sentences of less than one year for non-violent offenses like nonpayment of child support and low-level drug possession; and prisons have virtually become Ohio's de-facto mental health institutions; and,

WHEREAS, Treatment is more effective than incarceration for mental health and addiction recovery; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation identifies a host of ways to reduce sentencing and the time spent in prison, greatly expands treatment in lieu of incarceration and calls for expanded community corrections that are expected to have a treatment component; and,

WHEREAS, Some of the highlights of the proposed legislation include:

- Increasing the threshold amount used in determining increased penalties, generally from a misdemeanor to a felony, for theft-related offenses and for certain non-theft-related offenses,
- Reducing the number of days spent in prison if the inmate participates in various programs, such as substance abuse treatment and educational/vocational training,
- Reducing the prison stay for substance abuse offenses with required treatment intervention.
- Using mental illness as a factor in deterring or shortening prison time; and,

WHEREAS, the legislation would create a state-wide 17-member Ex-offender Reentry Coalition that includes the Director of Mental Health and the Director of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, or their designees, and requires the Local Correction Planning Board to include the Director of the local ADAMHS Board or designee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, WITH THE BEST INTEREST OF CONSUMERS IN MIND:

1. **Supports SB 10** and companion bill **HB 86: Prison Reform.**
2. Directs that this resolution be sent to **Governor John Kasich**; each member of the **Cuyahoga County Delegation in the Ohio House and Senate**; **Tracy Plouck**, Director of ODMH; **Orman Hall**, Director of ODADAS; **Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald**, and each member of the **Cuyahoga County Council.**

On the motion of Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., seconded by Harvey A. Snider, the foregoing motion was adopted.

AYES: Rev. Iris Lynn Bailey, David E. Biegel, Ph.D., Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., E. Cash, MSSA, Tatiana Falcone, M.D., J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., Pythias D. Jones, M.D., Rick A. Kemm, MNO, Rev. Charlotte Still Noble, J. Richard Romaniuk, Ph.D., Harvey A. Snider, Mary R. Warr

DATE ADOPTED: March 23, 2011