

Drug Trafficker Registry Proposal

The current situation related to the opiate crisis/epidemic is a local, state, and national problem. We are several years into battling this issue and the problem has worsened. In order to be more effective the laws need to catch up to the current times. Quite frankly the laws have to be strengthened. A registration requirement for convicted drug traffickers with very rigid and structured requirements developed in a manner to strengthen law enforcement's ability to be more effective is long overdue.

The current emphasis for dealing with the opiate crisis appears to be driven by a policy focused on lowering the population of incarcerated persons and pushing resources towards criminal offenders (addicts) for treatment. This approach marginalizes law enforcement with language such as "you can't arrest your way out of this problem". The repeated use of this phrase across all disciplines dealing with the opiate crisis time after time and roundtable after roundtable further diminishes and devalues law enforcement's role in dealing with the opiate crisis.

Law enforcement was basically told your traditional role cannot solve this problem and very little financial resources were pushed towards law enforcement. The pursued policy in effect created a self-fulfilling prophecy for law enforcement. Law enforcement is told what you do, "arrest people" is not of value to solving this problem and then dollars are allocated elsewhere. The results are what we are dealing with today. The results are unacceptable. The drug trafficker remains totally unaddressed throughout the process.

The proposed drug trafficker registry would be modeled after the sex offender registry. To be effective the controls and restrictions must be developed in a way to strengthen law enforcement's hand. The effectiveness of the proposed registry is not envisioned to be measured by a decline in the recidivism rate for convicted drug traffickers. The purpose is to put a registry in place with controls and restrictions that make it nearly impossible for a convicted drug trafficker to re-enter the drug trade in Ohio after release.

The below framework provides a very basic scope of the envisioned registry. There are many details to be worked out and no doubt some considerations not even included. The ultimate goal is to create a registry that works for law enforcement and makes it more difficult for the convicted drug dealer after release.

- 1) Convicted drug traffickers to register with the Sheriff's Office as do sex offenders
 - a. Determine type of trafficking offense – broad or focused on opiate crisis
 - b. Establish a tier system for convicted drug traffickers
 - c. Each tier will have registration periods (years) established
- 2) Establish registration requirements

- a. Residence
 - b. Work
 - c. Phone numbers
 - d. Vehicle registrations or vehicles to be driven
 - i. Explore possibility of "offender plates" similar to habitual OVI offender
 - ii. Explore possibility of having an identifier added to the driver's license
 - iii. Explore possibility of rental car notification by offender to Sheriff's Office
- 3) Establish restrictions on associations with other convicted drug traffickers
- a. Restrictions on locations where drug trafficking is occurring
- 4) Strengthen asset forfeiture systems for registry violations
- a. Money
 - b. Vehicles
 - c. Real estate