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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
In Support of HB2515**

February 2, 2022

Chairman Owens and Committee Members:

Our associations support passage of HB2515, pertaining to creating an exit mechanism for registered drug offenders as provided in the bill.

While this bill does not propose eliminating registration of certain drug offenders or closing the drug registry to public access, we do want to point out that we have consistently opposed such proposals. This is primarily due to the inherent public safety risks created around locations where the distribution or manufacturing of illegal drugs is taking place. Both are locations existing in a significant number of drive-by shootings and other violent crimes. Some manufacturing processes present other physical dangers to neighborhoods including fires, explosions, and illegal disposal of dangerous chemicals. It should also be noted that persons convicted of simple possession of illegal drugs are not required to register. It is only those convicted of crimes relating to manufacturing or distribution.

Our associations have also supported limited methods for certain registered offenders to have the possibility of a court review for continuing their registration requirements. The drug offenders addressed in this bill fit that criterion; and we believe the timelines and required factors for a court to consider are proper and adequate.

For those reasons, our associations support HB2515 as presented, provided no substantive amendments are made to expand the bill into registered non-drug offenders or to eliminate or limit public access to the drug offender registration.

We do ask for the revisor to review the statute reference on page 9, lines 40-41, to make sure it is referencing the intended subsection. It appears to us it might be intended to refer to subsection (k).

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