

35th House District

Summit County

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**Greta Johnson**  
State Representative

Committees

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs,  
and Public Safety  
Judiciary  
Transportation and Infrastructure

July 8, 2016

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger  
Riffe Center, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Speaker Rosenberger,

As ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee and a concerned legislator, I write to you in request for a unified response to the opioid epidemic plaguing our state. This past week, a supply of heroin ripped through my city, Akron, claiming at least four lives and causing at least 20 overdoses. As you are well aware, this is not only an issue for northeast Ohio. Heroin, fentanyl, and other opioid addiction and overdose deaths skyrocketed throughout the entire state of Ohio over the last 15 years.

I believe elected officials from all parts of Ohio, across political affiliations and branches, can agree that addressing the opioid epidemic in our communities should be of the utmost priority. To this end, I believe a bipartisan, bicameral opiate task force or special legislative committee should be convened to help guide legislative efforts to fight back against heroin and fentanyl addiction. At the state level, we must work with and support local initiatives while bringing together lawmakers, professionals, advocates and community members to develop a statewide opiate strategy.

I commend the efforts which have commenced thus far in regards to drug abuse in Ohio, but ask that you utilize your abilities and responsibilities as a leader in our state to unify, focus, and strengthen these efforts. I would welcome the opportunity to participate in any task force or committee and provide further comments, ideas, and assistance toward this cause. Please feel free to contact me at 614-644-6037 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greta Johnson".

**Greta Johnson**

Representative to the 35th House District

cc: Governor John R. Kasich  
House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn  
Senate President Keith Faber  
Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni