



## Your Weekly Newsletter on Daniel's Law

Over a year ago I embarked on a mission to pass a law that would change Ohio's current policy on opioid prescriptions. It has not been an easy process. You see, while I have been tirelessly working for this legislation, I have also been mourning the loss my oldest son, Daniel, who passed away from the disease of addiction. It is Daniel's memory that keeps me pushing for this necessary change.

The process of creating a bill that will impact the trajectory of this problem has required the help and support of many people. I have spoken to countless experts: doctors, police officers, pharmacists, addiction specialist, trade association executives, and many others. With their input, and the commitment of legislators in both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, we have created a bill that has all the necessary pieces to enact lasting change.

As a result the following changes have recently been incorporated into Daniel's Law:

- It will now codify the governor's executive order which is seven days' worth of opioids at 30 MED's a day for adults.
- It will put a hard stop for prescription opioids in a primary care setting.
- It will start to phase out chronic pain patients in a primary care setting.
- It will expand treatment options for patients by utilizing services like telemedicine.
- It will require treatment providers to consult with and inform patients of all FDA approved MAT's. This will ensure that patients are better informed of their treatment options.
- It will prohibit a doctor from ordering or prescribing opioids to a patient who does not consent to the use of opioids.

This journey has allowed me to encounter hundreds of families, like my own, who feel the impact of the addiction epidemic every day. It has encompassed all races, ages, and socio-economic groups. It is a universal problem which must be addressed through a comprehensive approach which includes the doctors who write the prescriptions, the pharmacists who fill them, the addiction specialists who provide treatment, and the manufacturers that make and promote these products.

I plan to continue to push for the changes in Daniel's Law. My family is just one of the thousands who have lost a loved one and the thousands more who continue to fight for the lives of their families. Please share our effort with anyone you think would be interested in joining our team. I have committed to working on Daniel's law to make the world a better place, not just to honor the memory of my son Daniel, but to change the future for Daniel's

children and the thousands of other people in our community who strive on with their fight and for the families who have tragically lost their personal struggle. Daniel's law is hope. It is about our families, and our future as a community. I invite you to share this newsletter with other families so they know they are not alone, and that the world can change for the better. All of us have a role to play in this crisis, which can no longer be ignored. Thank you for your continuing support of Daniel's Law.

Sincerely,  
Scott Weidle

**" You cant go back and change the beginning , but you can start where you are and change the ending" - CJ Lewis**

## The opioid crisis labeled a national public health emergency by President Trump.

President Donald Trump characterized the U.S. opioid epidemic as a national public health emergency and directed the executive government to "use every appropriate emergency authority" to fight the crisis.

**More than 64,000 people** died in 2016 from drug overdoses, the majority of which were linked to opioids, such as oxycodone, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and the illicit drug heroin. CDC found that the number of opioid overdose deaths **soared 200 percent between 2000 and 2014**. At least **91 Americans** die daily from opioid overdose.

Attorney General Mike DeWine held a press conference shortly after the President's announcement and placed new pressure on pharmaceutical companies to act in combating this epidemic. DeWine said "Do you see them coming forward with a huge education plan that they could roll out, that helps the people in the state of Ohio, helps kids from becoming addicted in the future? No, you don't see them do any of this. I am going to make them do it,".

"In 2014 alone, pharmaceutical companies spent \$168 million through sales reps peddling prescription opioids to win over doctors with smooth pitches and glossy brochures that downplayed the risks of the medicines," DeWine said at a press conference back in May. Last year, 2.3 million people in Ohio, or about a fifth of the state's population, were prescribed opioids.

NBC4 interviewed Scott Weidle following the Attorney General's press release. Scott told reporters that, while he agreed that the attorney general should be suing the pharmaceutical companies, the real focus needs to be on the doctors prescribing the opioids. Scott states "Now that we have trained all these doctors to use these opioids, it's a habit that is hard to break. Until we get legislation in place that causes some hard limits, we'll struggle with this issue for years to come".



## Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor addresses the opioid crisis at the Life Enrichment Center in Dayton.

Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor outlined her plan Thursday to address the opioid epidemic, which included references to her two adult sons, both now in recovery.

"I am an angry mom who has seen enough. As governor, I intend to see that Ohioans suffering through addiction of their own, or that of a loved one, no longer look to tomorrow with despair, but with hope," Taylor said. Addressing the opioid crisis, which was largely responsible for a 33% increase in Ohio's deaths last year, is a topic which all the candidates seeking their parties nomination for governor must address.

Scott Weidle was invited to attend this event by the lieutenant governor, on behalf of Daniel's Law, to discuss effective ways to end this opioid epidemic. She informed Scott that part of her comprehensive plan includes encouraging physicians to pursue other treatment options for patients that does not involve opioid-based painkillers.

