JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

May 27, 2016

Dear Superintendent:

Ohio is facing a deadly epidemic and we're asking for your help.

We are concerned that too many of our young people are falling prey to drug abuse, addiction and overdose. Since there is no one better positioned than our schools to reach large numbers of our at-risk students with an effective anti-drug message, we are making this bipartisan outreach to ask for your help as we marshal our state and local resources in the fight against drug abuse and addiction.

Ohio has effective tools to help our schools fight this scourge in their classrooms. Wherever these programs are already being applied with full commitment, they are having a strong impact. Better yet, these tools are available to you and your colleagues at no cost other than your own determination to put them to work:

StartTalking!: It's a simple but effective concept. By having a conversation with young people about the dangerous consequences of trying drugs, studies show that we can reduce the likelihood of kids starting down a path to drug addiction by 50 percent. Many communities and schools in Ohio are already using these free resources, but we know that more can be done. We urge you to engage your teachers, parents and mentors to take a minute to have a conversation with their students about the dangers of drug abuse and host a conversation in your community. More information is available at www.starttalking.ohio.gov

GenerationRx: The Ohio State University and Cardinal Health Foundation have partnered to design a toolkit for educators with age-appropriate lessons to teach kids about the dangers of prescription drugs. This may especially be helpful as you work to meet requirements of House Bill 367 to teach students about prescription opioid abuse. More information can be found at www.generationrx.org/take-action

We encourage you to make these resources known to the teachers, counselors and parents in your district. No doubt you are already engaged in this battle in a number of ways. Now we

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encourage you to redouble your commitment and if your district has not already used these tools to their full advantage, please consider doing so.

This is a fight Ohio cannot afford to lose and only with your help can we have any hope of victory. Thank you for your continued support in this area.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us or contact Sarah Smith at Ohio's StartTalking! program at 614-387-2799.

Sincerely,

John R. Kasich
Governor

Mary Taylor
Lieutenant Governor

Sen. Keith Faber
President
Ohio Senate

Sen. Joe Schiavoni
Minority Leader
Ohio Senate

Rep. Clifford A. Rosenberger
Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives

Rep. Fred Strahorn
Minority Leader
Ohio House of Representatives

Mike DeWine
Attorney General