

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

VETO MESSAGE

**STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE VETO OF ITEMS IN
AMENDED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 55**

July 16, 2020

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16, of the Ohio Constitution, which states that the Governor may disapprove of any bill, I hereby disapprove of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 55 and set forth the following reasons for so doing.

This bill, as introduced, would have increased the penalty for individuals who seek to harm the health and safety of Ohioans in recovery by selling controlled substances near recovery centers. This is an idea I support, and look forward to the day I sign that provision into law.

However, the bill was amended in a way that would make it difficult for local health officials to protect the public's safety and fight the spread of COVID-19. In the midst of this pandemic, now is not the time to change tactics and impede local health officials' ability to protect all Ohioans. Our collective goals are always to ensure the safety of the public,, guard against the health care system from being overwhelmed, and allowing all Ohio workers and businesses to do what they do best, which is grow our economy.

A robust public health system protects us from E-coli and Legionella outbreaks, threats of bioterrorism, or once-in-a-century pandemics.

For these reasons, this veto is in the public interest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus this 16 day of July, Two Thousand Twenty.

Mike DeWine, Governor

This will acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this veto message of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 55 that was disapproved by Governor Mike DeWine on July __, 2020.

Name and Title of Officer

Date and Time of Receipt