



# Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform

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**NEWS ADVISORY**

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## ***Ohio Community Corrections Organization joins over 175 Advocacy Groups in Calling for the Repeal of the HEA Drug Provision***

Stoutsville, OH: The Ohio Community Corrections Organization has recently joined a growing number of religious, education, criminal justice, civil rights, and rehabilitation organizations who are calling on Congress to repeal the Higher Education Act Drug Provision.

Added to the federal program for financial aid in 1998, the HEA Drug provision denies financial aid to individuals with drug convictions. Since the Drug Provision found its way onto the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form in 2000, more than 157,000 students have been denied aid.

The Ohio Community Corrections Organization (OCCO) is a coalition of community corrections practitioners including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, law enforcement, and treatment providers working to promote community corrections in the adult and juvenile systems. The OCCO works to encourage community participation in treating offenders in order to integrate them safely into the community.

The OCCO is one of 21 organizations in Ohio calling for the repeal of the Drug Provision. Other supporters include the Ohio ACLU, Ohio Federation of Teachers, Racial Fairness Project, Dayton Urban League, Faces and Voices of Recovery, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Ohio Citizen's Advocacy Board, Focus on Health Care, and the Prison Reform Advocacy Center.

Many groups in this broad coalition recently targeted Senator Mike Dewine (R-OH) to encourage him to support the repeal of the Drug Provision. As a ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. DeWine will have several opportunities next session to repeal the HEA Drug Provision, which will be included in two Senate reauthorization bills next Congress. Additionally, these groups are also asking Sen. DeWine to introduce a Senate bill that will fully repeal the HEA Drug Provision. The Senator has yet to commit to the task.

To date, four Ohio Congressmen have voiced support for repealing the law, including Rep. Sherrod Brown, Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and Rep. Timothy Ryan.

The Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform is a coalition of religious, education, criminal justice, civil rights, and rehabilitation organizations seeking to repeal the Higher Education Act Drug Provision. There are now over 175 organizations from around the country calling on Congress to repeal the Drug Provision.

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