

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 644-6074  
(800) 282-0253  
[Rep61@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep61@ohiohouse.gov)  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)



61st House District

Lake County

Committees

Chairman: Economic Development,  
Commerce and Labor  
Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and  
Homeland Security  
Federalism and Interstate Relations  
Community and Family Advancement

**Ron Young**  
State Representative

March 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Three months ago, our President officially declared the opioid crisis “a National Emergency.” This emergency has its roots right here in the great state of Ohio. Every year since 1999 we have lost the war on drugs. From coast-to-coast in the 12 months prior to July of 2017 we have lost over 66,972 lives to accidental opioid overdoses, 5232 of those in that same period were right here in Ohio. That would be an average of 14 people dying every day. Nationwide, that is more in one year than the total number of lives lost during the whole 20 year Vietnam War!

I have recently been introduced to several faith-based groups around the state, have heard the testimonies, and witnessed the impact of how they have helped the addicted. I am inspired by the success they have seen. I believe they need to be part of the discussion as they are indeed part of the solution. It has been my distinct pleasure to become acquainted with one of those groups in particular, the RU Recovery Ministry, based out of Rockford, Illinois. This organization has a national and international reach and has had an impact in Ohio by chartering dozens of chapters right here in my state. They are seeing tremendous results. I wholeheartedly endorse the RU Recovery Ministry and their national “Faith-Based Recovery for America™” Campaign.

We need an “all-hands-on-deck” approach to this massive issue including those in the faith-based community. This war will not be won by government efforts alone. Victory will require our appealing to the most powerful forces at our disposal. Those forces include our churches and faith-based communities. Not by government controlling their activities but by government supplying them with the resources and information they need to fight this battle. To that end, I support their efforts in any way possible.

If you have any questions about my thoughts on the RU Recovery Program or the impact of faith-based recovery in Ohio please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Young  
State Representative

RY/br