



Senator Rob Portman's Record of Combating Poverty

Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

Portman authored the Drug Free Communities Act which was enacted in 1997 and supports community coalitions that have formed to address youth substance use. Since enacted, the Drug Free Communities program has funded nearly 2,000 coalitions and currently mobilizes nearly 9,000 community volunteers across the country.

Portman authored legislation to create an efficient, cost-effective system for states to share information from prescription drug monitoring programs across state lines, making it easier to track prescription drug abuse. He also authored legislation making synthetic drugs illegal substances for the first time ever. Both pieces of legislation were signed into law in the summer of 2012 as part of the FDA bill.

Portman led a bipartisan letter to Attorney General Eric Holder asking him to address heroin and opioid dependence in our country by embracing an all hands-on-deck approach that recognizes that prevention and education, law enforcement, overdose prevention and the utilization of all opioid addiction treatments are all required to fight drug abuse.

Preventing Recidivism

Portman authored the Second Chance Act with the late Cleveland Democrat Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones in 2004, and it was passed into law in 2008. He is working for reauthorization with Sen. Patrick Leahy.

Portman co-authored the Recidivism Reduction and Public Safety Act with Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse. This bill will also work to reduce recidivism by providing drug treatment and mental health services to individuals within the federal corrections system. It passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan vote of 15-2.

Helping Vulnerable Children

As co-chair of the Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking, Portman has been very involved with legislation trying to help children in harm's way.

In March 2014, Portman's amendment to prevent violent criminals from working in child care facilities passed as part of the Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization.

In February 2014, Portman secured passage of his amendment to ensure that child victims of sex trafficking are eligible to receive help under VAWA grants.

Last Congress, Portman's legislation to strengthen protections against trafficking in connection with overseas federal contracts passed as part of the NDAA.

In June 2013, Portman introduced the bipartisan Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013, which would improve state and national data on the scope and prevalence of child sex trafficking and bring commonsense reforms to the child welfare system to better identify and assist victims of child sex trafficking and commercial exploitation.

Worker Retraining and Connecting Americans with Open Jobs

Portman introduced the bipartisan CAREER Act which will make federal job training programs more responsive to the needs of the 21st-century job market. There are over 400,000 people in Ohio looking for work, yet employers are looking to fill over 100,000 open positions.

A provision of the CAREER Act that would encourage the use of workforce development funds from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to implement pay-for-performance job-training programs was included as part of WIA that passed out of HELP Committee.

Portman helped to ensure that the Senate agreement on extending unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed included a provision he fought for that would ensure that unemployed workers who go through the state-based skills assessment process are given important real-time information about the skills and credentials they need to get back on a career track.

In April 2014, Portman secured passage of his amendment that would make long-term unemployed Americans eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) as part of the tax extenders bill.