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Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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[Hannah Kubbins](#) / January 27, 2018

Ohio Gov. John Kasich should consider his fight against the states deadly opioid epidemic when deciding whether to spare a condemned killer whose life spiraled out of control after becoming addicted to painkillers, say attorneys trying to stop the killers execution less than three weeks from now.

Death row inmate Raymond Tibbetts was doing fine until he was inappropriately prescribed painkillers for a work injury in the mid-1990s, according to documents provided Kasich by federal public defender Erin Barnhart.

We know now just how devastating and deadly opioid addiction can be, and our government officials are rightly working to combat this epidemic on several fronts, Barnhart wrote Kasich last year.

Tibbetts deserves mercy because of his addiction and unanswered requests for help with his struggle, Barnhart wrote.

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