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## Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Issues Statement on Attorney General Yost's 'Blatant Power Grab' to Take Over Opioid Lawsuits

*City Attorney commends Governor Mike DeWine for threatening veto and  
calling proposed legislation to seize control over 100 local governments'  
lawsuits a 'serious mistake'*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein welcomed Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's forceful opposition to an attempt by Ohio Attorney General David Yost to convince the state legislature to grant him the authority to take over and dismiss over 100 separate opioid-related lawsuits filed by cities and counties throughout the state of Ohio. These lawsuits, and nearly 2000 others filed by various different jurisdictions throughout the country against the opioid industry, have been consolidated in federal court in Cleveland.

An analysis by the Columbus City Attorney's office, and others such as Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien, consider the current legislative proposal pushed by Attorney General Yost to be fraught with problems, including its constitutionality.

City Attorney Klein issued the following statement:

**"I want to thank Governor Mike DeWine for publicly opposing the divisive, unnecessary, and unconstitutional legislative proposal that would allow the Attorney General to take over and dismiss all lawsuits filed against the opioid industry by over 100 Ohio cities and counties. As Columbus City Attorney, I see firsthand how the opioid crisis has devastated our community and know that local governments in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout the state are experiencing similar problems. It's our first responders and our local resources that are being deployed on the frontlines of this battle and it's only right that we have a say in how we move forward from here. A crisis of this magnitude requires us to work together to find solutions, and I'm hopeful that our local voices from across Ohio, coupled with Governor DeWine's leadership, will persuade the state legislature and Attorney General Yost to abandon this blatant power grab and partner with us instead."**

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