



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

April 10, 2018

House Criminal Justice Committee

Proponent Testimony – S.B. 66

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to testify as a proponent on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference about House Bill 439.

I am Paul Pfeifer, Executive Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference. The Ohio Judicial Conference's Community Corrections Committee has reviewed SB 66 and would like to express its support for this bill.

SB 66 amends R.C. 2929.13 to eliminate the one-year minimum for community control. It amends R.C. 2929.15 and 2929.16 to broaden the types of sanctions available for community control violations. It amends R.C. 2951.041 to expand judicial discretion over intervention in lieu of conviction. And it amends R.C. 2953.31 to expand the possibilities for criminal record sealing.

These changes, in aggregate, provide for courts and for probation departments a greater level of control over the use of limited resources. Judges are in the best position to determine what sanction or sanctions an offender needs and how long those sanctions should be in place, and this bill allows judges more options in making these decisions..

I thank Sen. Eklund for sponsoring Senate Bill 66 and for including in it several changes that will positively impact Ohio courts and their ability to fairly and effectively administer justice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 66; I'm happy to answer any questions.