



Good afternoon, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera and members of the Finance Committee. My name is Mike Flannery and I am the Executive Director of MonDay Community Correctional Institution in Dayton, Ohio and a trustee for CorJus, a collaborative and innovative trade association for Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF). Thank you for the opportunity to discuss HB 166.

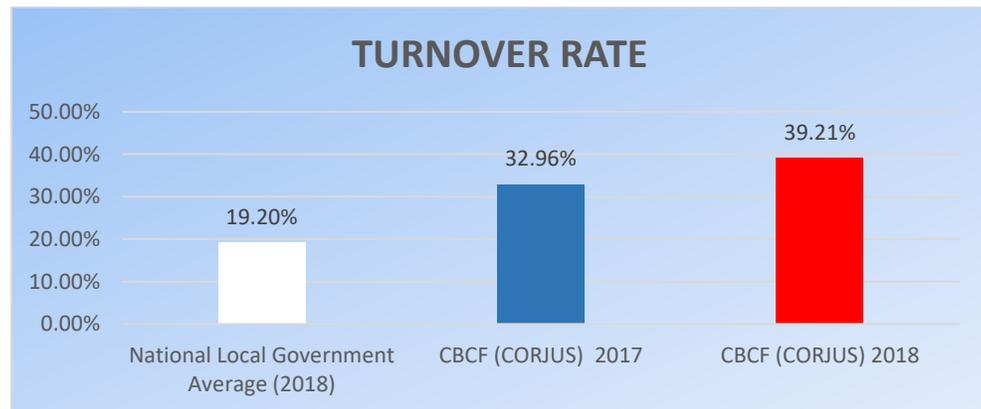
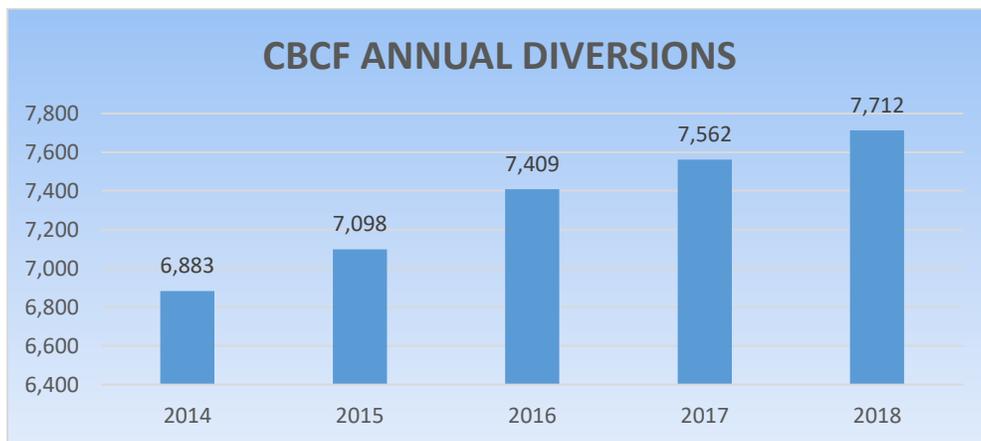
The first CBCF in Ohio dates back to 1978 and was established to be locally controlled. Today there are 18 CBCFs serving all 88 counties and providing treatment to over 7,000 offenders each year. CBCFs are funded through the General Revenue Fund (GRF – Line 501501) as part of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction budget and are a unique partnership between state and local government. With almost 50,000 individuals incarcerated in Ohio's prisons, CBCFs and all community corrections are an excellent and cost-effective resource for reducing the prison population.

CBCFs are often used as a last line of defense before prison. Offenders complete many hours of highly intensive programming to deal with problems such as drug (89.9% of offenders) and alcohol (86.7% of offenders) dependence, anger management, and begin walking the path to employability that can help to end the cycle of incarceration. CBCFs rely on highly trained staff to provide evidence-based programming. Unfortunately, CBCFs are currently facing an inability to hire and keep qualified staff. Staff at all levels are seeking other opportunities. The situation is critical when it comes to entry level, mid-level, and certified staff. The ability to pay staff a living wage has deteriorated at current funding levels and has an undesired impact on our ability to be an effective sentencing option to alleviate prison overcrowding. Over the past four fiscal years, the cost per offender in Prison has increased by 33% for all offenders and 27% for Felony 3, 4 and 5 offenders. During that same period, the cost per offender in CBCFs has increased by 4%. CBCFs have become a feeding ground for other areas of the criminal justice system because of the high levels of training and exposure to evidence-based programming. CorJus facilities had an average turnover rate of 39.21% in 2018, over double the national average of 19.2% for local government (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Of those leaving, almost 80% cite higher wages as a deciding factor. If CBCFs are going to be able to provide the highest level of evidence-based programming in the community, staff must be fairly compensated. If these turnover numbers continue to increase, facilities may struggle to operate at the current levels.

CorJus is asking for an increase of ODRC Line 501501 in the amount of \$5.94 million in FY20 and \$1.77 million in FY21. This funding will be specifically used to bring staff compensation in line with ODRC's prison staff from 2010 and will impact all 88 counties.

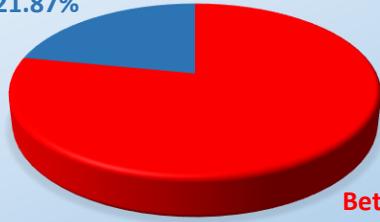
Despite significant legislative support for an amendment to the sub bill, no additional funding was included for CBCFs in sub HB 166 when it was released last week. I would note, however, that additional money was appropriated for Halfway Houses for a similar purpose that we are seeking. The General Assembly has historically included similar funding percentage increases for CBCFs and Halfway Houses which I hope will occur in the Omnibus.

Thank you for your time to discuss how CBCFs can be utilized to keep Ohio safe and better fight the opiate epidemic and I will answer any questions.



REASON FOR SEPARATION

Other, 21.87%



Better Wages,
78.13%