

Good afternoon, Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Transportation. My name is Eddie Philabaun and I am the Executive Director of STAR Community Justice Center in Scioto County 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 resource for reducing the prison population.

We appreciate the confidence Governor DeWine and Director Chambers-Smith have shown by committing resources for CBCFs in the budget. Governor DeWine and Director Chambers-Smith recognize that the most efficient way to make communities stronger is to make them safer. Safer communities are the goal of all CBCFs. CBCFs accomplish this using a combination of community punishment and evidence-based treatment. CorJus supports DRC's push to have a probation department in every county. By establishing statewide county probation departments, the common pleas courts will have the ability to develop goal-oriented solutions to criminal justice issues specific to their counties. As elected representatives, you, as much as anyone, understand that each community is unique. Along with the development of additional county probation departments, the continuation of TCAP will provide communities the resources needed to strengthen and prioritize criminal justice resources. These efforts will allow more offenders to remain in the community, close to family and employment opportunities, which are paramount to long-term success.

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. 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.

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.

