

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

March 4, 2020

Testimony in Support of HB 137 Earning Statements

Chair McColley, vice chair Johnson, ranking member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, my name is Jim Tobin. I am an Associate Director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The Conference urges your support of HB 137.

HB 137, requiring an employer to provide earnings and deduction statements to each of their employees, will help assure that employees are getting their duly agreed upon compensation.

In Catholic Social Teaching, work is a fundamental right belonging to all people. In the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Pastoral Letter on the U.S. Economy* it is taught that commutative justice calls for fundamental fairness in all agreements and exchanges between individuals or private social groups. It demands respect for the equal human dignity of all persons in economic transactions, contracts, or promises. For example, workers owe their employers diligent work in exchange for their wages. Employers are obligated to treat their employees as persons, paying them fair wages in exchange for the work done and establishing conditions and patterns of work that are truly human.

We believe that such principles are compatible with public policies, such as HB 137, that promote aspects of fair employment practices.

Thank you for this opportunity.

