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Alvis - Columbus, Dayton,  
Chillicothe

Community Assessment & Treatment  
Services, Inc. - Cleveland

Community Corrections Association, Inc -  
Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,  
Talbert House -Lebanon

Community Restoration Centers of Stark  
County, Inc. - Canton

Community Transition Center - Lancaster

CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. -  
Tiffin

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF,  
Oriana House, Inc. - Cleveland

Mahoning County CBCF, Community  
Corrections Association, Inc. -  
Youngstown

Ohio Link Corrections & Treatment, Inc. -  
Lima & Toledo

Oriana House, Inc. - Akron, Cleveland,  
Marietta, Sandusky

Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc. -  
Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

The Salvation Army Harbor Light -  
Cleveland

Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana -  
Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, Toledo

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer please accept this correspondence as formal support of Senate Bill 3. Our state association appreciates the thoughtful investment of time and energy in your prioritizing treatment, and considering return to the community in this process. As you know, 95% of those incarcerated across the country return. We, in community corrections, help by providing substance use disorder, mental health programming, and job placement in order to make our communities safer.

At the request of the sponsors, we offered initial feedback and look forward to continued dialog.

- OCCA favors the misdemeanor designation for low level possession as this is the greatest and most important feature in the bill. As we know, a felony label is often a "scarlet letter" that follows someone long after they have served their punishment and made efforts to become law abiding citizens. Collateral sanctions come in the form of housing and employment limitations, to scholarship and financial aid for schooling. If we are truly just, then the punishment meted out should not linger and follow someone who struggled with drugs after they have completed their sentence. Imposition of a felony for those who were addicted creates a lasting and semi-permanent legacy.
- OCCA supports treatment foremost and the clarification around technical violators. The new language on this provision makes it clear that the terms of imprisonment for F4 and F5 violators are 180 days and 90 days respectively. It is important that persons are not sent to prison for violations that are not crimes.
- We further support efforts to amend the bill to recognize service provision agreements in counties that have both a municipal and common pleas drug court.
- OCCA appreciates that residential community correction facilities are identified as options for drug courts. Currently, misdemeanor offenders that are sentenced to a Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) or halfway house are paid for by the referral source. Making changes in the Revised Code will be necessary to change the funder to the state to avoid a burden to local governments. DRC would also need to promulgate rules for priority placement of the misdemeanor high need substance use disorder population. In addition increased capacity may be required to adequately serve unclassified misdemeanants with financial appropriations for treatment. Thank you for your time and attention. Additional questions may be directed to:

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Lusanne Green, (614) 378-9808