

**Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
HB 586 Proponent Testimony
By Marjory Pizzuti, President & CEO
Goodwill Columbus
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Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf HB 586.

Goodwill Columbus, along with the Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries (OAGI), are exceedingly grateful to Representatives Kelly and Greenspan for their commitment to advancing the importance of Ohio's Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP). This proposed legislation will elevate awareness and knowledge about procurement opportunities for certified CRP suppliers and increase employment opportunities for individuals with documented disabilities and other barriers.

Since its founding in 1939, Goodwill has been committed to its mission of transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities and other barriers through pathways to independence and the power of work. Our agency, like Goodwills throughout Ohio, provides training and skills development, assistance with obtaining digital literacy and support to individuals seeking job placement and retention. We also offer additional technology training, as well as industry-recognized credentials related to "in-demand" job sectors including health care, IT and hospitality/retail.

Our Goodwill has a long and successful history of procuring and retaining CRP contracts with State agencies, public universities and local political sub-divisions throughout Franklin County. We have been an active CRP vendor for more than 38 years and currently have 23 CRP contracts. Some of these locations are The Ohio State University, The Ohio Department of Commerce, Franklin County Public Facilities Management, The Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. In these contracts we provide custodial and unarmed security services and employ more than 230 individuals with disabilities or other barriers, generating approximately \$8.3 million in revenue to support Goodwill's mission.

Passage of HB 586 will result in more opportunities to secure CRP contracts and ensure that the Community Rehabilitation Program is the economic and workforce development catalyst it was intended to be.

TRANSFORMING the lives of individuals with disabilities and other barriers
through pathways to ***INDEPENDENCE*** and the ***POWER OF WORK.***

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As you may know, individuals with disabilities have the highest unemployment rate of any minority group in the country. This legislation is intended to reinforce the intent of the CRP program and prohibit “bundling,” when a CRP product or service is a portion of a larger RFP, by clarifying and tightening the requirements to ensure that agencies are following the statute.

Thus, Goodwill Columbus joins our statewide association, as well as the many other CRP’s in Ohio, in requesting your support of HB 586 to strengthen the program, which will provide additional jobs and training opportunities for people with disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue, and please feel free to reach out, should you have any questions. **I can be reached at 614-583-0346 or via e-mail at Marjory.pizzuti@gwcols.com**