



Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries  
Written Testimony on Amended Sub HB 166 Submitted to the Senate Finance Committee  
June 14, 2019

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, the Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries (OAGI) would like to extend our appreciation to the Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representative and to Governor DeWine, the for the hard work and consideration that has been devoted to Amended Substitute House Bill 166. OAGI would like to highlight a few elements of Amended Sub HB 166, which are good for our state and for individuals who are seeking a pathway to independence through employment.

**Removal of MCDCD35 Employment connection incentive programs (ORC 5167.29).** This provision added by the House and removed by the Senate would have been a step backward from improving Ohio’s workforce efforts. It would have created unnecessary duplication and complexity to the workforce development system by requiring Medicaid managed care organizations to establish employment connection programs. Many qualified non-profit and local government providers of employment services, such as Goodwill, exist across the state and are already providing a “hand up” to Medicaid recipients. The Senate was right to recognize the existing infrastructure which serves these individuals.

**Increasing investment in Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).** If passed, Amended Sub HB 166 would allow the state of Ohio to leverage more matching funds from the federal government than at any time in recent history. These funds will be used to expand vocational rehabilitation services to high school and college students with disabilities as well as individuals recovering from addiction. This important investment will allow OOD and community partners like Goodwill to help more Ohioans with a disability obtain employment.

**Investing in Adult Education and Credential Programs.** Too many Ohioans are stuck in low wage jobs because they lack a high school diploma or skills to advance. Throughout Amended Sub HB 166, Ohio is choosing to invest in a full continuum of career-oriented education/credential opportunities that will provide our teens and adults with a pathway to increased earnings. These investments will result in wins for individuals, families, employers, and communities across Ohio.

OAGI encourages the Senate to retain these elements of Amended Sub HB 166. Goodwill will be an ardent supporter of these workforce initiatives which will undoubtedly change lives through the power and dignity of work.

*Goodwill Industries has been providing community-based workforce development services to individuals with barriers to employment for over a century. Across the state, we provide industry-recognized credential programs in information technology, healthcare, forklift operations, hospitality, and more. We also build job seeking skills and work experiences in partnership with local employers and other workforce development organizations.*

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