

Chair Eklund, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 18 on behalf of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction(ODRC). My name is Teri Baldauf, Warden at the Ohio Reformatory for Women(ORW) in Marysville, Ohio. I have served nearly 25 years within ODRC and was transferred to the Ohio Reformatory for Women in January 2016 as the Deputy Warden of Special Services and have been the Warden since March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. ORW is one of the largest female facilities in the nation, and on a daily basis staff strives to provide a safe, humane environment that allows our women to focus on becoming healthy.

In our evaluation of Senate Bill 18, we believe it is common sense legislation that codifies protections for pregnant women, who are among our most vulnerable population. The issue of how pregnant females are restrained has evolved in a relatively short period of time. As more studies, information, and best practices have been shared in the correctional community, ODRC has taken proactive steps within our policies to ensure the safety and well-being of both pregnant mothers and their unborn children.

Current ODRC policy dictates that pregnant females and women up to 6 weeks post-partum are not to be restrained once their pregnancy is confirmed. There some extenuating circumstances that allow for exceptions to this including:

- to prevent substantial bodily harm to self or others,
- substantial property damage,
- creation of a substantial security risk

It is very rare for these extenuating circumstances to apply to women within DRC. Generally, it is the overarching intent of the department to use the most minimal amount of restraint necessary to provide a safe and secure environment.

After providing feedback to Senators Antonio and Lehner, we look forward to working collaboratively with them to address any unintended consequences as part of a substitute bill, but the

Department fully supports the intent of the legislation to codify best practices as part of Senate Bill 18.  
Thank you again, and I will address any questions the committee has.