



**Eastern Ohio Correctional Center
Wintersville, OH**

Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana,
Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson,
Monroe, Noble

**Franklin County CBCF
Columbus, OH**

Franklin

**Lucas County Correctional
Treatment Facility**

Toledo, OH
Lucas

**MonDay Community Correctional
Institution**

Dayton, OH
Darke, Green, Miami,
Montgomery, Preble, Fayette

**NorthEast Ohio Community
Alternative Program**

Warren, OH
Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage,
Trumbull

**NorthWest Community
Corrections Center**

Bowling Green, OH
Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Williams,
Wood

**River City Correctional Center
Cincinnati, OH**

Hamilton

**STAR Community Justice Center
Franklin Furnace, OH
Nelsonville, OH**

Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton,
Fairfield, Gallia, Highland, Hocking,
Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs,
Morgan, Pickaway, Perry, Pike,
Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Washington

**Stark Regional Correction Center
Louisville, OH**

Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas, Wayne

**W.O.R.T.H. Center
Lima, OH**

Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin,
Mercer, Putnam, Paulding, Shelby,
Van Wert

**West Central Community
Correctional Facility**

Marysville, OH
Champaign, Clark, Delaware,
Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow,
Union

House Criminal Justice Committee Testimony

Sub. Senate Bill 288

Revise the Criminal Law

Testimony of: Cary Williams

Executive Director

NorthWest Community Corrections Center

Committed to Community Corrections Excellence

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Good morning Chair LaRe, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. My name is Cary Williams, I am the Executive Director of NorthWest Community Corrections Center in Wood County, and a Trustee of CorJus, Inc. CorJus is a professional association that represents eleven publicly operated Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) in Ohio. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 288, and speak specifically the provision that would allow courts and offenders access to CBCFs during the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction process.

The first CBCF in Ohio dates to 1978 and was established to be a locally controlled entity. Today, CBCFs serve all 88 counties in Ohio and provide residential treatment to over 7,500 offenders annually, as well as several thousand more in a variety of outpatient programs. CBCFs provide the highest level of treatment dosage in the communities they serve. Through ingenuity and community collaboration, CBCFs have expanded their holistic treatment to include programs for substance abuse, cognitive behavioral therapy, anger management, family reunification, general education, medication assisted treatment (MAT), trauma, and mental health, among many others.

CBCFs are effective at working with high risk, felony level offenders with a variety of criminogenic needs. This flexibility makes CBCFs ideal tools for courts to utilize within the expansion of Intervention in Lieu eligibility. Expanding access to Intervention in Lieu allows more offenders, with more needs, the ability to benefit. To expand access for offenders with more needs, without expanding the access to more tools for judges, will limit potential success.

Many judges around the state currently successfully utilize CBCFs within the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction process. The purpose of the provision is to clarify what some view as ambiguity in the current code. CorJus strongly believes this provision will make clear for judges and offenders the opportunity to utilize CBCFs as another step in the continuum of sanctions in the Intervention in Lieu process. Instead of limiting the courts to programs in the community, this provision allows judges

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another option to continue the Intervention in Lieu process when an offender initially fails a term or condition in the community. Without access to CBCFs, courts are often left without more intense treatment options. This can lead to guilty pleas and incarceration, leaving the offender in a much worse position.

In regards to Sub. SB 288 as a whole, we applaud the overarching intent of the ambitious legislation. It is clear the criminal code in Ohio has been in need of modification and update for quite some time. The diligent work of the Ohio Criminal Justice Recodification Committee in recommending changes to code has borne fruit. Their efforts to offer recommendations to simplify criminal code is apparent in the proposed legislation. We commend the legislature for their desire to strive for effective and lasting positive changes by revising criminal justice law with Sub. SB 288.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate you allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony to you regarding Substitute Senate Bill 288, and specifically the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction provision. I am happy to provide follow-up answers should members of your committee have questions.

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