

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Keith A. Evans, Chief Probation Officer

106 HIGH STREET

FIRST FLOOR

WARREN, OH 44481

Phone 330-675-2531 Fax 330-675-2833

Proponent Testimony – Senate Bill 63

Keith Evans, Chief Probation Officer

November 28, 2022

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 63, which would allow county probation departments to collect fees via a credit card.

The Trumbull County Adult Probation Department has been asked multiple times by defendants if they can pay on their court ordered probation fees including restitution, by credit card. Upon researching Revised Code 301.28, I found that probation departments are not listed as a county official. After seeking a legal opinion from the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, they also agreed that the probation department cannot accept credit card payments.

This bill will enhance the amount of payments received for multiple accounts of a probation department, ie: supervision fee, restitution, house arrest fees, etc. We believe the amount of money collected by credit cards will be bountiful. Not only will this action aid in the financial support the probation departments it will also benefit the defendant in completing their financial obligations ordered by the Court and, hopefully, get some victims of crime reimbursed in a more timely fashion.

The Trumbull County Adult Probation Department endorses Senate Bill 63, which passed the Senate unanimously, and encourages your favorable support.

Thank you for your consideration of our position and should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 330-675-2532.

I would like to thank Senator Sandra O'Brien for her cooperation in introducing this to legislation.

Thank you Mr. Chair for allowing me to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 63.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Evans
Chief Probation Officer

KAE/trg