

Arthur B. Hill III – Beau
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Cleveland, Ohio

SB 288

SUBMITTED TO THE
OHIO SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 1, 2022

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Arthur B. Hill III - Beau, a 4th generation Salvationist and employee of The Salvation Army of over 25 years. As Executive Director of The Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex in Cleveland Ohio, I manage a host of programming including an emergency shelter for homeless families, transitional housing for homeless men, a residential sub-acute detox center and halfway house for those involved in the criminal justice system.

Thank you for allowing me to speak before the committee. Today I rise in support of Senate Bill 288. This bill addresses many issues that have been worked on in prior General Assemblies. Adjusting the language regarding Transitional Control was a topic that Senator Eklund and I worked on almost a decade ago and Senator Manning along with Representative Sykes addressed towards the end of the last General Assembly.

In the programs we administer as The Salvation Army, most of our clients struggle with substance abuse, homelessness, mental health and cognitive challenges. Our charge is to address those issues so that the individual can overcome those challenges and lead productive lives.

Through my tenure at The Salvation Army it has become evident that an individual's willingness to change is paramount. We also know that providing the right intervention at the right time increases the likelihood of the client being responsive and improves results. This is the core principle being addressed with Transitional Control.

Often times when we talk about budget, research and programs but what we overlook is the very real challenges of the person we serve, who is directly impacted by those decisions.

Allowing the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to administratively transfer someone with a prison sentence to a Halfway House makes sense as those individuals have been screened by DRC. The screening out includes those with a Sex Offense, history of challenges within the institution and who do not want the opportunity of TC.

While every individual does not successfully complete Transitional Control, those who create challenges in the Halfway House can be immediately remanded back to prison.

The University of Cincinnati research notes that the use of Transitional Control is the most effective program in the Department in reducing recidivism. I believe that it is the convergence of the effectiveness of the programming along with the client's knowledge of the potential to head back to prison that make it effective.

Transitional Control provides a safe landing, or parachute so to speak. More people accessing this programming allows them the opportunity to reintegrate more effectively thereby making communities safer.