



Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

The Conservative Political Action Coalition, or CPAC, supports efforts to improve public safety, enhance government accountability, and advance human dignity. We devote time to it every year at our CPAC conference, and recently created a Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Advisory Council to ensure that this discussion is led by conservatives with experience holding people accountable, while still appreciating that redemption and second chances are also conservative values.

It is for these reasons that we support HB 196, which makes smart, safe, and efficient changes to community control in Ohio.

**Right now, people in OH who are eligible for community control can be sentenced to 5 years, regardless of the offense:** That's the equivalent of everyone eligible for a prison term being able to be sent to prison for the same number of years, regardless of severity of offense, and other key factors.

Data shows that the majority of reoffending takes place within the first 2-3 years of someone's community supervision term. Simply extending these terms is not a conservative approach; good conservative government should want to limit interventions that create taxpayer-funded programs that overreach into people's lives and work to ensure there are resources available to supervise those who really do require the extra support. And importantly, the research shows that keeping people on excessively long community control can do much more harm than good; and in many cases it can lead people to reoffending.

**HB 196 will help make Ohio's use of community control a more efficient and conservative use of government resources:**

Currently, Ohio carries the burden of one of the highest rates of people on community control – with 47 states in the country managing their community control populations more efficiently. Ohio also leads the nation in the length of community control, meaning people stay in the government's program in Ohio for years more than other states, even when there's no discernible public safety reason.

**These extended terms of supervision drag out the chances to run into technical violations, minor infractions that end up sending more people to prison for things like missing meetings, increasing the burden on taxpayers for what should lead to a more appropriate response.**

The State of Ohio spends nearly \$100 million dollars a year sending people to prison for technical violations. Staggeringly, 20% of the Ohio prison population is there for technical violations, not even criminal offenses.

Now let me be clear, this legislation is not some radical change looking to let everyone in prison walk free. CPAC has been a national leader in right-sizing community control and probation systems in other states, including Florida, which passed two probation reform bills with our support in the last two years, Pennsylvania, Virginia and others. We see this effort in Ohio as another great opportunity for conservatives to lead on safely getting people back on their feet.

People who have made mistakes, meet all the conditions of community control, and demonstrate that they're not a continued public safety risk should be contributors to our communities. However, overly punitive community control measures will only continue to drain taxpayer and law enforcement resources that could be much better utilized for more proven violent crime intervention programs.

We fully support HB 196 and would like to thank its sponsors for bringing this important discussion to Ohio's legislature.

Thank you for your time.