



Senate Ways & Means Committee
Proponent testimony on House Bill 108
Robert Campbell, Senior Vice President, Retail Operations
Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana
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Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Tory, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of House Bill 108, sponsored by Representatives Santucci and Adam Miller. My name is Robert Campbell, and I am the Senior Vice President of Retail Operations for Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana.

We believe in helping all people reach their full potential. For over 125 years, our work has continued to touch the mind, body, heart—and ultimately the spirit of those we serve. Volunteers of America (VOA) is a national, faith-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe, and productive lives. Through thousands of human services programs, including housing and healthcare services, VOA helps over a million people across the country and thousands throughout Ohio and Indiana.

In addition to our services, Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana operates 13 thrift stores and 2 donation centers throughout central and northern Ohio. Items sold include Clothes and shoes for all ages, household items, dishware, books, jewelry, and furniture. With approximately 3,000-4,000 new items added daily, we processed and marketed over 15 million pounds of goods donated by 298,000 donors in the last fiscal year. All proceeds from thrift sales directly benefit Volunteers of America's programs and services.

House Bill 108 is a jobs bill that will support valuable job services to assist individuals in gaining and maintaining meaningful employment. Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana provides employment services for work-challenged individuals every day, including those in our behavioral health, reentry, and veteran's services programs. Our clients learn job skills ranging from resume writing to job applications to landing and maintaining employment. Our specialists and case managers support them throughout their employment while they are in our programs.

The retained funds from House Bill 108 will be reinvested into job training and job placement programs for individuals facing workplace disadvantages, such as developmental disabilities, mental illness, criminal history, veteran status, and homelessness. This population historically experiences the highest rate of unemployment.

On behalf of Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana, I appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 108. This important legislation will enable us to serve additional individuals by strengthening the skills they need to be successful in the workforce and in life. I am grateful for your thoughtful consideration and happy to answer any questions you may have.