



HB 108 Proponent Testimony
Scott Marks, Vice-President
Ohio Provider Resource Association
House Ways and Means Committee
May 23, 2023

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 108, the Nonprofit Workforce Reinvestment Act. My name is Scott Marks and I am Vice-President at The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). Our membership consists of over 150 nonprofit disability service provider organizations.

Ohio's nonprofit organizations bring tremendous value to our community through employment training and job placement programs that provide much needed support to residents and businesses. Not only are they a significant employer, but they also play a vital role in upskilling and training individuals for jobs with other employers that otherwise would not be prepared to enter the workforce.

HB 108 would allow nonprofit organizations that sell donated goods to retain 25% of the state sales tax generated by items sold at their retail stores. Funds would be reinvested into workforce programs for individuals with barriers to employment, including veterans, individuals with disabilities or mental illness, justice-involved individuals, and those experiencing homelessness.

OPRA's membership focus on the independence and success of Ohioans with disabilities, providing integral services that help them live, work and thrive in their communities of choice. HB108 would support our mission of providing opportunities for individuals with the most complex barriers to employment and independence by reinvesting resources into the vitally important workforce development services.

Nonprofit organizations play a key role in equipping individuals with the skills needed to fill in-demand jobs. They are trusted by local employers as well as individuals seeking workforce programming. Investing in their programming, which has a proven record of success, would be a prudent use of state tax dollars.

On behalf of OPRA, we ask for favorable passage of HB 108 as it will assist residents in our state with attaining competitive employment. Thank you for the for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Marks", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Marks
Vice-President
The Ohio Provider Resource Association