

We would like to thank Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes and the members of the Senate Finance committee for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Patrick Davis, and I am the director of the non-profit, "Fringe Industries" located in Hamilton, Ohio in Butler County. I am here to give testimony regarding budget amendment number HC2969.

Fringe Industries is a holistic, faith-based prison, re-entry and recovery program designed to get to the root causes of incarceration, addiction, and homelessness. We exist to empower inmates, ex-felons and those on the fringes of society to live healthy, whole lives. Part of the way we accomplish this is by going inside the walls of Lebanon and Dayton Correctional every Tuesday. Through our 10 week faith-based music therapy program, "Scars and Bars" we explore the root cause of incarceration and destructive behavior. Through this program were able to build kinship with those incarcerated and establish a reliable and steady mentoring relationship.

Upon release, we provide gainful employment through a 18 month paid job training program at The Fringe Coffee House or another social enterprise. We create a custom re-entry support plan for each person who walks through our doors. These participants will build their work history, learn healthy people skills, how to problem solve, work ethic and more and also regain a sense of dignity after incarceration, homelessness or drug-addiction.

The Fringe Coffee House and Re-Entry Program has employed over 30 people full time with a criminal record and or history of addiction. We currently have over an 85% success rate with those who have gone through our program. We've helped scores of parents reconnect with their children and learn to build healthy relationships with them. We have also launched "The Fringe Studio' in collaboration with Booker T. Washington Community Center for at-risk youth in our community.

The Fringe also provides 5 recovery meetings that serve over 200 people on a weekly basis in Butler County. Fringe Industries is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit with a (board of directors of local business /ministry leaders) with full financial transparency and accountability. FI also recently received the "Impact Award" from the director of the Ohio Department of Corrections, Annette Chambers-Smith for our positive impact both inside and outside the prison system in Ohio.

If Fringe Industries is awarded funds through budget amendment number HC2969, it will help us continue providing these much needed resources to those we serve and initiate the launch of a new sober living home for pregnant mothers in Butler County.

We thank you for your time and we are happy to answer any questions.

-Patrick Davis | Director
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