



June 10, 2024
Cindy Garner
Clothes That Work, Executive Director

SB 288 Proponent Testimony

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 288. Clothes That Work (CTW) is a grassroots non-profit that has been providing professional clothing, image counseling, and training for job seekers in Montgomery County since 1998. More than 40,000 men, women, and independent teens have benefited from CTW's services. By partnering with local organizations, CTW helps clients in need of interview clothing and provides critical training on soft skills necessary for employment success.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and the Legislature for your diligent efforts in crafting Senate Bill 288. This bill represents a significant step forward, and I am particularly grateful for the inclusion of Clothes That Work. Your commitment to addressing our needs does not go unnoticed.

The funds designated in SB 288 will be instrumental in expanding CTW's services to meet the growing demand. With Dayton having one of the highest functional-unemployment rates in the nation, CTW aims to serve over 3,000 job-seeking clients and the emerging workforce per year. To support this mission, we plan to purchase a second Mobile Outreach Vehicle to reach more clients in Montgomery County and beyond, and to establish a new headquarters to manage this growth. This investment will enhance our ability to provide professional clothing, coaching, and soft skills training, ultimately helping our clients secure and retain employment, thereby fostering a sustainable workforce and reducing reliance on government programs.

Thank you once again for your hard work and dedication to improving our state. Your leadership and support are greatly appreciated.