



**Representative Sean Patrick Brennan  
14<sup>th</sup> House District  
Serving Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland's West Park**

May 8, 2024

**H.B. 184 Sponsor Testimony**

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee members Senator Lang and Senator McColley.

While serving on Parma City Council for 19 years, one of the complaints I would often receive from residents and business owners in Ohio's seventh largest city was the proliferation of donation collection receptacles. In fact, since leaving city government to serve in the General Assembly, I can attest from my own observations that the issue continues. Further, Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Safety Director Bob Coury, and members of Parma City Council have expressed to me that this issue has not abated.

This is not only a problem in Parma, but throughout the state of Ohio. In fact, as one travels throughout our state, it is common to find multiple receptacles on one property, sometimes close to or in the public right-of-way. In my experience, at-times these, often unsightly, bins, that are very difficult to move, given their size and weight, would show up without the property owner's permission.

While the concept of donation collection bins is undoubtedly noble, there are compelling reasons why Ohio should take steps to ensure their integrity.

First and foremost, unchecked donation collection receptacles pose a risk to public safety. These receptacles can become magnets for illegal dumping and are often overflowing, turning our streets and neighborhoods into eyesores. Improperly maintained bins can also pose safety hazards, such as blocking the public right-of-way, collapsing, or spilling over, endangering both pedestrians, bicycle riders, and drivers. By implementing standards, Ohio can ensure that these receptacles are properly maintained and do not become blights on our communities.

Secondly, under current conditions donation bins are exploited by unscrupulous operators. Some individuals and organizations have been known to use these bins for profit rather than charitable purposes. Without oversight, it is challenging to ensure that donated items truly benefit those in need. Our bill will establish transparency requirements and enforce compliance, ensuring that

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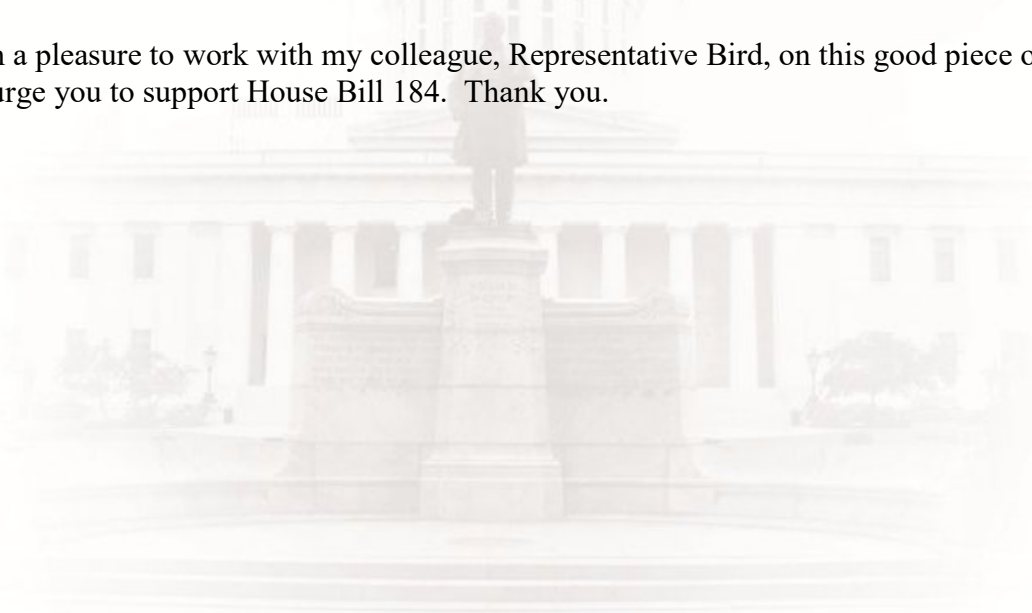
donations genuinely serve their intended charitable purposes, including veterans' organizations, Special Olympics, Goodwill, and other good actors.

Furthermore, in the current environment these bins create an unfair advantage for dishonest operators over legitimate charitable organizations - literally *boxing out* good actors, like Goodwill Industries, who you will hear from in proponent testimony. When unscrupulous operators deceive donors, it undermines trust in the entire charitable sector. By passing our bill donation collection receptacles, Ohio can level the playing field, protecting the interests of reputable nonprofits, and ensuring that donations reach those who genuinely need them.

In conclusion, Ohio must take action to reign in the current wild west of donation collection receptacles for the sake of public safety, transparency, and fairness. By doing so, we can strike a balance between encouraging charitable giving and safeguarding our communities. Let us work together to ensure that the spirit of generosity in our great state benefits those who truly need it and protects the integrity of our neighborhoods.

I would add that I fully support the amendment supported by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. It is certainly not our intent to hinder the philanthropic efforts of local charities, particularly those collecting perishable food and personal items. I am hopeful that a member of the committee will be willing to offer the amendment and that the committee will approve it soon.

It has been a pleasure to work with my colleague, Representative Bird, on this good piece of public policy. I urge you to support House Bill 184. Thank you.







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