



## House Bill 50 Testimony

Good afternoon, Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member Sykes, and all other members of the Community Revitalization Committee. I am writing this testimony to discuss HB50, a bill to create a Certificate of Qualification of Housing (CQH).

My name is Pastor Julius Lancaster, and I am the Lead Pastor of All Nations Worship Assembly Of Columbus. As a formerly incarcerated black man in Ohio, HB 50 would have helped my transition back into society immensely. I endured 6 months of homelessness that HB 50 would have prevented. Since my release, I've been blessed spiritually, socially, and financially. However, as my wife and 3 children entered the transition of building a new home, we needed a temporary apartment until it gets finished. I was denied because of an old felony. I have the credit, finances, and employment to qualify, but my felony prevented us from acquiring temporary housing. I can only imagine the countless men that are prohibited adequate housing due to past mistakes. Given my personal experience, it's no surprise that formerly incarcerated individuals are nearly 10 times more likely to experience homelessness than the general public. Had my life not been stabilized, being denied from temporary housing could have been a trigger that put me on the path to recidivism. When individuals have access to stable housing, they are less likely to engage in criminal activities or become homeless, thus contributing to public safety. Stable housing can lead to increased employment opportunities, reduced reliance on social services, and a more robust local economy. While I am unable to speak to the technicalities of HB 50, I'm hoping that my testimony will serve well.

Julius Lancaster

Lead Pastor of All Nations Worship Assembly of Columbus