

Senate Ways & Means Committee
Senator Michelle Reynolds and Senator Catherine Ingram
Senate Bill 82 Sponsor Testimony
March 22, 2023

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing us to testify today on the Nonprofit Workforce Reinvestment Act, Senate Bill 82. Most of us remember our first paycheck from our first job, and the pride associated with earning a stable income. For individuals with barriers to employment, the joy of that first paycheck or a steady source of income can be elusive.

We ask for your support of the Nonprofit Workforce Reinvestment Act to provide additional resources for nonprofit organizations that focus on empowering individuals with workplace disadvantages to prepare for, find and retain competitive employment.

Senate Bill 82 will allow nonprofit organizations that sell donated goods to retain 25% of the sales tax generated by items sold at their stores. Retained revenue will be used exclusively to fund job training and placement services for individuals with workplace disadvantages, including individuals with disabilities, mental health issues, criminal history, veteran status, and homelessness. This population historically experiences the highest rates of unemployment.

The bill is modeled after legislation that has passed in Kentucky and Louisiana. In each of these states, the sales tax exemption is used for capital construction costs associated with opening new retail locations. As Ohio has a greater need for workforce programming, this legislation focuses solely on job training and placement services.

The Nonprofit Workforce Reinvestment Act recognizes the important role that our nonprofit partners play in workforce development in Ohio. We ask for your support of this important legislation, which will allow these organizations to expand their programming and help individual with disabilities and other barriers to employment explore career options, prepare for the job market, and find employment opportunities within their community. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 82. We're happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.