



PO Box 93 • 2541 Western Ave. • Chillicothe, OH 45601 • 740-702-4000

Mission: Partnering with individuals with disabilities and challenges to help them lead the lives they envision

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 82
Non-Profit Workforce Reinvestment Act
Senate Ways & Means Committee
March 29, 2023**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today as a proponent of Senate Bill 82. My name is Marvin Jones, and I am the CEO of Goodwill of South Central Ohio.

Our organization, one of 16 Goodwill organizations in the state, serves eight counties with various services for those with developmental disabilities and challenges to employment: Ross, Fayette, Pickaway, Pike, Jackson, Vinton, Athens and Hocking. We have about 270 employees and we operate nine retail stores and an ecommerce operation that generates about \$6.5 million in sales a year total.

In the past 26 months, we've placed 81 individuals in jobs by working closely with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the DD boards in our counties. We are currently supporting roughly 100 individuals with job placement and job training services through our OOD partnership, and we serve 111 people in our adult day support centers of which 27 are working on their skills to attain employment in the private sector. We anticipate serving more than 50 individuals ages 16-24 in our Summer Youth program to provide them a 5-week preview of what it takes to land and hold a job once they're ready for full-time employment.

One reason we hope you'll support passage of Senate Bill 82 is that we will use the approximately 80-90,000 dollars we would retain in sales tax each year to find good jobs for even more individuals. We can work closer with drug recovery programs, with drug courts, with mental health clinics, with probation offices. The need for aid to help individuals in these situations find jobs is immense.

According to our local executive of the South Central Ohio Job and Family Services agency, only 37.4 percent of individuals in Ross County with less than a high school diploma participate in the labor force compared to the statewide average of 54.8 percent. We hope to further move that needle with these extra funds.

Another initiative we're undertaking to address the workforce issue is the establishment of a daycare center in Chillicothe. We're hoping to open by fall. A priority of ours will be to offer affordable daycare to families where one parent might be staying at home today rather than working. By this time next year, we hope to be serving at least 75 families.

On behalf of our Goodwill, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 82. This important legislation will help us to serve additional individuals by strengthening the skills needed to be successful in the workforce and in life.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration and am happy to answer any questions you may have.