

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the Commerce and Labor Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 225.

My name is Brittany Stiltner, and I serve as the CEO of Sandco Industries, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities through meaningful, person-centered services, including employment opportunities.

I am writing today to express my opposition to the elimination of 14(c) certificates.

At Sandco, the 14(c) certificate allows us to provide customized, supportive employment opportunities to individuals who may not be able to succeed in a traditional competitive work environment. These jobs offer far more than a paycheck. They provide purpose, structure, pride, and connection. For many of the individuals we serve, 14(c) is the difference between isolation and inclusion.

We do not view 14(c) as a permanent solution for everyone, nor as the only path to employment. We support choice and believe in expanding access to integrated, community-based work when it aligns with each individual's goals and abilities. But for some, 14(c) offers a vital, appropriate, and empowering alternative.

Phasing out this option entirely would eliminate opportunities for people who depend on it—individuals whose stories too often go unheard in policy conversations. I urge you to consider the real people behind the numbers and to protect their right to choose the employment setting that best fits their needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Brittany Stiltner
CEO

Sandco Industries
567 Premier Drive
Clyde, Ohio 43410
419-547-3273 ext 100