



House Community Revitalization Committee

October 28, 2025

House Bill 393

Proponent Testimony

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Alvis - Columbus, Dayton,
Chillicothe

Community Assessment & Treatment
Services, Inc. - Cleveland

Community Corrections Association, Inc -
Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,
Talbert House -Lebanon

Community Restoration Centers of Stark
County, Inc. - Canton

Community Transition Center - Lancaster

CROSSWAEH CBCF, Oriana House, Inc. -
Tiffin

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell CBCF,
Oriana House, Inc. - Cleveland

Mahoning County CBCF, Community
Corrections Association, Inc. -
Youngstown

Ohio Link Corrections & Treatment, Inc. -
Lima & Toledo

Oriana House, Inc. - Akron, Cleveland,
Marietta, Sandusky

Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc. -
Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

The Salvation Army Harbor Light -
Cleveland

Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana -
Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, Toledo

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 393, and thank you to both sponsors for introducing this bill. My name is Jason Varney, I am the Vice President of Correctional Programs in North Central and Southeast Ohio for Oriana House, which is a member of the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA).

On behalf of OCCA, we are proud to support HB 393 which seeks to improve the process of providing driver's licenses and state identification for persons released from Ohio's prisons. This bill builds upon what Senate Bill 198 enacted in 2024 by also requiring Community-Based Correctional Facilities and District Community-Based Correctional Facilities to assist offenders in their custody to obtain a state ID card. In doing so, HB 393 fills a gap that was unintentionally left out of SB 198 by addressing offenders who are diverted from prison. For instance, the CBCF in Seneca County on average has 75% of its population directly sentenced to the program by the Courts of Common Pleas. This will capture those clients who otherwise are not released from prison with identification. OCCA is comprised of non-profit residential community corrections agencies, and we support these efforts which will help with workforce while also successfully integrating people with justice involvement as productive, tax paying citizens.

Ohio's halfway house and Community-Based Correctional Facility residents accept responsibility for their actions and endeavor to lead productive lives as they annually provide almost 290,000 hours of community service while paying over \$1 million in taxes, court fines, restitution, and child support while they are in our facilities. In order to successfully complete our programs, gainful employment is expected. Our Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction-licensed and Ohio Department of Behavioral Health-certified agencies provide additional supports that include assessments and counseling, anger management and cognitive behavioral therapy.

We have found that state identification or a driver's license are invaluable tools in finding employment. Expanding the existing program has the potential to strengthen our economic development for both businesses and citizens who are being given a second chance.

Thank you again for your time and attention on this important matter, I would be happy to answer any questions.