



**Ohio House
Community Revitalization Committee
October 28, 2025
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 393**

Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 393. My name is Simone Price and I am the Director of Advocacy and Organizing at the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO).

CEO is the nation's largest nonprofit re-entry employment provider. Annually, we serve hundreds of recently incarcerated individuals across our Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus offices. We provide immediate jobs, daily pay, and robust, evidence-based workforce development programming. Our programming also includes providing advanced credentialing that may lead to a long-term, higher paying job. All of our programming hinges upon the ability of individuals to enroll in our programs and obtain access to basic benefits, all of which is exponentially more difficult when there is any delay in access to a state ID.

A state-issued identification card is the gateway to housing, employment, benefits, public services, transportation, banking, and full participation in civic life. For people returning from incarceration, the moment of release often represents a critical juncture: **the presence or absence of ID can make the difference between moving quickly into productive pathways or being forced into cycles of instability, marginalization, or recidivism.** In our experience, even modest delays or gaps in documentation can derail job offers, impede enrolling in training or benefits, and drive people into the informal economy or unsafe conditions. Bill 393 addresses one of those key chokepoints.

House Bill 393 would require community based correctional facilities and dual-diagnosis community based correctional facilities to assist individuals in obtaining state identification cards prior to their release. The bill recognizes that by integrating ID issuance into the release planning process, we can better ensure that returning individuals leave with a basic cornerstone of documentation rather than facing additional delay, cost, or risk of falling into limbo. Successful implementation of this support for people exiting facilities ensures that the ID process does not become a post-release hurdle, when individuals are already juggling housing, employment, transportation, and supervision obligations.

Furthermore, enabling returning individuals to engage legitimately in employment, transportation, housing, and responsible citizenship prevents avoidable instability, and supports stronger, safer neighborhoods, a goal that aligns with the revitalization mission of this Committee.



Center for
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Removing structural barriers to obtaining an ID, such as costs, lack of institutional support during incarceration, and bureaucratic delays is a policy imperative if we are serious about reentry, economic inclusion, public safety, and community revitalization. We also encourage fully funding and resourcing the assistance component of this measure so that facilities have the capacity (staff time, forms, fees, logistical support) to make this practical necessity, the norm.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 393. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

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