



Proponent Testimony H.B. 393
House Community Revitalization Committee
October 28, 2025

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 in favor of H.B. 393. My name is Marsha Forson, and I am an associate director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The Catholic Conference is the official voice of the Catholic Church in Ohio on matters of public policy.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio advocates for public policies that ensure that our criminal justice system fulfills its restorative purpose. Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) aim to do just that by offering services such as case management, cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol treatment, job placement, educational programs, and success planning. H.B. 393 would enable CBCFs to assist inmates in obtaining identification prior to release. This practice would create a consistent and impactful addition to the services offered by CBCFs. It would also be an appropriate expansion of the current program that assists prison inmates in obtaining state identification.

It is well known that individuals who are involved with the justice system face many barriers to successful reintegration, especially unemployment. Providing applications for identification that assist a returning citizen in obtaining employment will yield manifold benefits, both for those involved in the justice system and beyond. The individual benefits from the dignity and ennobling effects of a job, decreasing the likelihood of recidivism. Communities can benefit from the stability of employed neighbors, decreased rates of poverty, collected taxes, and strengthened families.

A truly just criminal justice system recognizes, as the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church teaches, that punishment should be ordered to “encouraging the reintegration of the [offender] into society [and] fostering a justice that reconciles, a justice capable of restoring harmony in social relationships disrupted by the criminal act committed.” HB 393 is a laudable step toward this kind of authentic reconciliation and justice by giving individuals greater access to the resources needed for their reintegration into our communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.