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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

September 30, 2025

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Upchurch and distinguished members of the House Small Business Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 268. The Ohio Community Corrections Association is committed to helping people with criminal legal histories successfully reenter their neighborhoods as productive citizens. Ohio community correctional programs, including halfway houses, community based correctional facilities (CBCFs), and Community Corrections Act programs are good stewards of public resources. Within our membership, we represent non-profit CBCFs and Halfway Houses.

Our member agencies strongly support this proposed legislation to reduce the amount of time a person with a felony conviction must wait to apply for a certificate of qualification of employment (CQE). Our providers assist in workforce readiness and employment placement as part of successful reintegration. Obtaining gainful employment helps with persons being contributors to communities and in individuals' ability to repay their monetary debts including child support, court fines, and fees as well as victim restitution.

Additionally, allowing clients to apply for a (CQE) within a year after release rewards those who demonstrate work readiness and motivation to make meaningful change. Currently, affected individuals must wait a year in addition to the expiration of any parole supervision time imposed upon release from incarceration.

By allowing application for a CQE one year after release, this bill provides opportunity for rebuilding lives. This change benefits the individuals directly affected, their families, and the broader community by promoting economic stability which has been well documented in reducing recidivism rates thereby increasing public safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please forward any questions to: Lusanne Green at the contact information in the letterhead or Kelsey Woolard, Governmental Policy Group, phone: (614) 461-9335 or email: KWoolard@gpgrhr.com

Sincerely,

David J. Stillwagon
OCCA President
Community Corrections Association, Inc.- Chief Executive Officer