

**House Ways & Means Committee**  
**Representative Elgin Rogers**  
*House Bill 100 Sponsor Testimony*  
*March 26, 2025*

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing us to testify today in support of House Bill 100. Most of us remember our first paycheck from our first job, and the pride associated with earning a stable income. For individuals with barriers to employment, the joy of that first paycheck or a steady source of income can be elusive.

Under House Bill 100, nonprofit organizations that sell donated goods can apply for a grant through the Department of Development to fund job training and job placement services for individuals with workplace disadvantages into competitive employment. This bill not only benefits those with mental & physical disabilities, but it will also provide opportunities veterans, homeless individuals, and individuals with criminal records. It is a privilege to work, earn an income, and be self-sufficient and we want all Ohioans to have that privilege. This bill is a step in that direction.

This training will help close the gap between employers and disadvantaged job applicants. In knowing that they can provide specialized training, employers that receive this grant can confidently hire applicants from adverse backgrounds. Similar programs already exist and are helping thousands. Goodwill is a well-known example, who have “served **over 1.7 million** individuals worldwide and helped more than **142,000** people train for careers in industries such as banking, IT and health care.”

Built into the bill are protections to ensure that the program is a prudent use of state resources. First, recipients would be required to file a report with the Department of Development accounting for the use of grant funds in the preceding fiscal year and listing the number of individuals served. Second, the bill allows for the department to claw back any funds they deem were not used in a manner authorized by the bill.

We know that when people learn skills to earn their own paychecks, they have the power to transform lives and communities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 100. We’re happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.