



Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 100.

At Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana, we are committed to helping people rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. We do this through an assortment of programs that aid some of the most vulnerable people in our community, providing mental health and recovery services and supporting our nation's veterans, mothers struggling with substance use disorder, individuals reentering their communities after a period of incarceration, and families in need. We fund these services through a myriad of grants, donations, and our thrift stores.

House Bill 100 would allow VOA Ohio & Indiana and organizations like ours to apply for grants through the Department of Development to fund job skills training and placement to the clients we serve. These grants are funded through 25% of the sales tax collected at our retail stores and will allow us to have a greater impact on some of Ohio's most vulnerable in our communities.

Funding via these grants can be utilized to hire, train, and work with those who receive services to ensure they are earning their own paychecks and obtaining the support needed to thrive. Other organizations, such as Goodwill Industries, have successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of such programs across the country, putting thousands of people with barriers to work each year.

HB 100 also provides for direct accountability for organizations to demonstrate yearly the impact and usage of funding received, as well as the opportunity for the state to demand return of funds in the event of misuse. This protects Ohioans from any misuse or misdirection of funding related to these grants.

We believe the impact of this bill will be felt throughout Ohio as VOA Ohio & Indiana and other organizations are able to provide job opportunities for these individuals, increasing their independence and reducing their reliance on other programs and sources of assistance. House Bill 100 will help us further our mission to offer hope, restore dignity, and transform lives to help people reach their full potential.

Thank you for your consideration,

John R. von Arx III
President & CEO
Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana

Offer Hope Restore Dignity Transform Lives

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Please remember us in your estate plans.