

May 28, 2025

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Amended Substitute House Bill 96, the state operating budget. My Name is Jock Pitts. I am the President of People Working Cooperatively (PWC).

PWC strengthens homes, families, and communities by providing professional home repair services at no cost for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners in Ohio. Over the last several years, PWC has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of residents.

PWC has served our most vulnerable neighbors for 50 years, and the impact is far-reaching. Over the last three years alone, PWC provided more than 18,000 direct services for nearly 12,000 individuals in more than 6,600 households. The services range from emergency home repairs, accessibility modifications, and weatherization services, as well as direct services to mitigate lead-based paint and asthma triggers.

A recent qualitative evaluation of services supported by the State of Ohio found:

- Nearly 1 out of 3 clients would not have been able to stay in their homes without PWC's assistance;
- 74% of clients reported improved health.

The most cost-effective housing dollar spent is one that preserves existing housing while simultaneously improving the health of the individuals served. PWC's work ultimately reduces unnecessary costs for more housing and for health care – our services translate to reduced Medicaid expenditures.

I urge you to return the \$8 million appropriation in the House-passed budget supporting our organization (Line item 195406 – Helping Ohioans stay in their homes).

State of Ohio funding will coincide with a much larger PWC plan to increase our capacity to provide services for all Ohioans.

Please help PWC continue to grow in Ohio. These extremely cost-effective services benefit our residents.

Respectfully,



Jock J. Pitts
President

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