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David Stillwagon, President Lusanne Green, Executive Director

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 June 4, 2025

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Finance Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 96, the state budget bill. The collaborative working relationship between the Ohio General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and community corrections providers has led to Ohio's position as a leader in community corrections in the country. Today, community corrections providers offer a full menu of sanctions and services including probation supervision, residential drug or mental health treatment, cognitive programming, electronic monitoring, community service, and case management to assist with public safety and successful reentry from jail or prison.

The Ohio Community Corrections Association is thankful for your leadership in removing language added in the House that jeopardized licensed halfway houses. Thank you for rectifying this provision.

We are now urging you to restore funding for local Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) line item 501-501 as our entities play an integral role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of people with convictions returning to society, offering an alternative to incarceration that focuses on addressing the root causes of criminal behavior while incorporating education and workforce skills especially for those at highest risk to re-offend. Additionally, the proposed budget cuts could disproportionately impact vulnerable communities that rely on community-based correctional facilities for support. We ask that you restore the \$12 million in the next biennium to ensure that these facilities can continue their essential work in serving our districts. The reduction in funding would jeopardize workforce along with efforts to enhance educational and vocational opportunities for clients under our care.

We appreciate your time and consideration, please direct questions to Kelsey Woolard at Governmental Policy Group, phone (614) 461-9335.

Respectfully,

David Stillwagon OCCA President