



# Senate Housing Committee

## Proponent Testimony

### Senate Bill 184

### May 13, 2025

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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

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Timken, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Housing Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on Senate Bill 184. My name is Linda Janes, and I represent the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA). Today, I stand before you to express our support for this legislation, which aims to address the pressing housing needs of our communities and pave the way for a brighter future for all Ohioans.

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.

Housing is a foundation of successful reentry. Unfortunately, housing instability is one of the biggest challenges individuals face after a period of incarceration. One of the most concerning issues for people leaving prisons and even residential community corrections is finding safe, permanent, and affordable housing where a person may begin anew and raise their children. On any given night in this country, 550,000 people are homeless and a significant number have been previously incarcerated.

### Housing Affects Our Workforce

The housing crisis also affects our line staff who earn the lowest wages in our facilities. Often, our staff come from the same neighborhoods as the people we supervise in our residential facilities.

### The Importance of Senate Bill 184

The bill's provisions encompass various aspects of housing, including incentives for initiatives that aim to reduce residential setbacks and increase population density. Making funds available to communities who are inclined to change antiquated zoning practices helps with accommodating the anticipated workers who will take jobs in Residential Economic Development Districts. The bill also supports modular housing development which creates financial mobility for the workers in these factories and gives communities additional options in creating myriad housing options based on a district's needs and preferences.

Homeownership is a cornerstone of the American dream, and Senate Bill 184 recognizes the importance of making this dream attainable for all Ohioans. SB 184 has the potential to stimulate economic growth by also creating jobs in the construction and housing sectors, attracting new residents to our communities, and fostering a more stable and productive workforce. By implementing the measures proposed in Senate Bill 184, we can create vibrant, welcoming communities that appeal to a range of individuals and families. This influx of new residents will invigorate our local economies, increase demand for goods and services, and contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of our state.

### **Fostering a Stable Workforce**

Housing stability is intrinsically linked to workforce stability. When individuals have access to affordable and safe housing, they are better able to focus on their professional responsibilities and contribute effectively to their workplace. Senate Bill 184's initiatives to promote housing affordability and accessibility will help create a more stable and productive workforce, driving economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for all Ohioans.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 184 represents a critical step forward in addressing the housing needs of our state. By implementing comprehensive and targeted strategies to promote workforce housing this bill has the potential to transform the housing landscape in Ohio. I urge the members of the Ohio Senate Housing Committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Please forward additional questions to:

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