Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 291.

My name is Trish Perry, and I am the co-founder of OhioCAN, a grassroots organization that supports families and communities impacted by substance use disorder. Our mission is to embrace, educate, and empower families while working to remove the stigma surrounding addiction and recovery.

But before I was an advocate, I was a mother.

More than a decade ago, I learned that my son was struggling with substance use disorder. Like so many families across Ohio, I had no roadmap. I did not know where to turn for help, and I quickly discovered that addiction does not just affect one person—it affects the entire family. Over the years I have watched friends and families lose loved ones, and I have seen the heartbreak that addiction brings to communities across our state.

That experience is what led me to become involved with OhioCAN and to begin working directly with people who are struggling with addiction, homelessness, and the long road to recovery. In this work, we meet many people who are involved in the justice system and are trying to rebuild their lives while under community supervision.

What I have learned through this work is simple: recovery and stability take time, support, and opportunity. When people are trying to overcome substance use disorder, maintain employment, reconnect with family, and follow the conditions of supervision, long and inflexible supervision terms can sometimes create additional barriers instead of helping people succeed.

Many individuals we meet are doing everything they can to move forward. They are working, participating in treatment or recovery programs, and complying with the conditions of their supervision. Yet they may remain under supervision for years, and even minor technical violations—such as missing an appointment because of transportation or work conflicts—can result in serious consequences that disrupt their progress.

SB 291 represents a thoughtful step toward a more balanced approach. By creating a tiered system of community control terms based on offense severity and allowing for judicial review after two years for individuals who have complied with supervision requirements, the bill provides an incentive for people to stay on track and demonstrate accountability.

For people in recovery, incentives matter. When someone knows that their progress—maintaining sobriety, holding a job, and complying with supervision—can lead to the opportunity

for earlier completion of supervision, it reinforces positive behavior and encourages long-term stability.

Just as important, SB 291 maintains the discretion of judges and supervision officers to continue supervision when there are legitimate public safety concerns. This ensures that the system still protects communities while allowing individuals who have demonstrated progress to move forward with their lives.

From the perspective of families affected by addiction, we know that recovery is fragile and often hard-won. Policies that support stability, employment, and reintegration make a real difference in whether someone continues on the path to recovery.

SB 291 reflects a smarter approach that focuses supervision resources where they are most needed while giving people who are doing the right thing a meaningful opportunity to succeed.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support Senate Bill 291.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to policies that strengthen families and communities across Ohio. I would be happy to answer any questions.