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Seek justice. Love mercy. Restore hope.

Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

March 11, 2026

SB 291 Proponent Testimony – Senate Judiciary Committee

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 291. I also want to thank Chair Manning and Vice Chair Reynolds for introducing and advocating for this bill.

I am Ally Alfonsetti, and I serve as a Legislative Strategist for Prison Fellowship. Prison Fellowship is the nation's largest Christian nonprofit equipping the Church to serve currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families. Prison Fellowship serves men and women in nine Ohio prisons through values-based programming like the Prison Fellowship Academy.

In 2025, over 16,000 individuals were under supervision with a community control sanction in Ohio.[1] Community control requirements should strike a balance between providing individuals with stability and guidance, while also ensuring public safety. An individual's stability can be challenged, with no public safety benefit, when minor non-criminal violations lead to incarceration that disrupts that individual's job and home life. Nationwide, an estimated 1 in 4 prison admissions are the result of technical violations of probation or parole rather than new criminal conduct.[2] This can undermine the nature of the crime, distort justice, and overcrowd facilities with low-risk individuals.

SB 291 reforms the current protocol for community control sanctions to better set individuals up for success by tailoring punishments for technical violations. This bill also allows courts to order individuals sentenced to temporary incarceration for a violation to serve their time on nights or weekends, helping minimize disruptions to their employment and family responsibilities.

Additionally, SB 291 reduces unnecessarily long community control terms. Excessively long probationary periods can cause roadblocks for individuals earnestly seeking their second chance. Community control policies that are proportionate, outcome-oriented, and swift will steward resources and fulfill our communities' best interests. SB 291 streamlines community control terms by setting maximum supervision lengths within a tiered system based on offense class. The bill will also provide the opportunity to ask for early termination after two years of felony community control sanctions, encouraging individuals to prioritize productive behavior and compliance with their court ordered conditions.

A justice system that aligns with mercy acknowledges that transformation is possible, while preserving accountability. HB291 provides judges with the tools to improve supervision outcomes and enhance public safety. Ohio has an opportunity to encourage success for Ohioans on community control by passing and supporting HB 291.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Ally Alfonsetti
Legislative Strategist
Prison Fellowship

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[1] ODRC, 2025 Annual Report, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (2025), https://drc.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/e9f27153-b76a-404d-bdb9-6acb5f4ffcdb/ODRC+2025+Annual+Report.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-e9f27153-b76a-404d-bdb9-6acb5f4ffcdb-pCrFiIW

[2] Justice Center, *Confined and Costly: How Supervision Violations are Filling Prisons and Burdening Budgets*, Council of State Governments (July 2019), https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/confined-and-costly.pdf