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 Vickie Miller, creator of the Training Assessment Placement Project (TAPP), a former Vocational Educator with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) and owner of VMConsulting. Through my work, I engage every day with individuals who are returning to their communities after incarceration and working to rebuild their lives. I see firsthand the challenges they face in finding employment, maintaining housing, reconnecting with their families, and complying with the many requirements of community supervision.

From this experience, I strongly support SB 291 because it reflects what those of us working directly with returning citizens see every day: supervision works best when it is focused, purposeful, and tailored to individual progress—not when it is unnecessarily prolonged.

Under current Ohio law, individuals on community control can remain under supervision for up to five years regardless of the severity of the offense. In practice, this often means people who have done everything right—completed programming, maintained employment, and complied with supervision requirements—remain under supervision long after they have demonstrated stability.

Long supervision periods can unintentionally create barriers to successful reintegration. Individuals who are trying to move forward in their lives often face technical violations for minor issues such as missed appointments, scheduling conflicts with work, or transportation challenges. When these technical violations accumulate, people can be sent back to jail or prison even though they have not committed a new crime. This disrupts employment, destabilizes families, and undermines the very progress supervision is intended to support.

SB 291 introduces a smarter, more balanced approach. By creating tiered community control terms that reflect offense severity and allowing for judicial review after two years for individuals who have complied with all requirements, the bill creates an incentive structure that rewards progress and accountability. People who demonstrate that they are successfully reintegrating into society should have the opportunity to move forward without unnecessary supervision.

Importantly, the bill still preserves judicial discretion. Courts will retain the ability to continue supervision when public safety concerns exist or when an individual is not complying with the terms of their supervision. This ensures that supervision resources remain focused on individuals who need them most.

In my work with formerly incarcerated individuals, I see how powerful positive incentives can be. When people know that their hard work—maintaining a job, supporting their families, staying compliant—can lead to earlier completion of supervision, they are more motivated to succeed.

SB 291 promotes accountability, supports rehabilitation, and allows our criminal justice system to focus resources where they are most effective. It helps people who have already proven they are ready to move forward while maintaining the safeguards necessary to protect public safety.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.