



**Senate Workforce Development Committee
Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 143
January 27, 2026**

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**Jason Varney, President
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Alvis - Columbus, Dayton,
Chillicothe

Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central
Ohio - Newark

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

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

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, thank you for your continued consideration of Senate Bill 143. On behalf of the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA), I write in support of the proposed amendment which will hopefully be incorporated into the bill today. We appreciate the sponsors keeping stakeholders informed and engaged, and after reviewing the proposed changes, we believe the bill continues to align with effective, outcome-based employment applicant protections.

OCCA 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.

Our member organizations work closely with individuals, families, and community partners to promote accountability, rehabilitation, and public safety. Amended SB 143 reflects a thoughtful approach that recognizes the importance of these goals while improving clarity and implementation within the bill. We appreciate the sponsors' responsiveness to both stakeholder input and a commitment to policies that support successful outcomes for those with a history in community corrections.

Employment is a foundation of successful reentry. Unfortunately, stigma 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 gainful employment where a person may pay court fines and fees, victim restitution, and more importantly, begin anew and raise their children. SB 143 will help applicants with records actually get interviews instead of being screened out automatically. Once someone can explain their history in context, they are much more likely to be judged fairly.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter, and we would especially like to thank Senator Craig and Senator Blessing for introducing this important bill. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelsey Woolard at Governmental Policy Group (kwoolard@gpgrhr.com or 614-461-9335) who works with us.

Sincerely,

Jason Varney,
President, Ohio Community Corrections Association