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**Michael Randle, President**  
**Lusanne Green, Executive Director**

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

Salvation Army Harbor Light - Cleveland

Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc. -  
Akron

Talbert House - Cincinnati

Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon

Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana -  
Cincinnati, Dayton, Mansfield, Toledo

Chairperson Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Commerce and Labor Committee; I am Jeremy Simpson, President of the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA). OCCA represents 39 nonprofit residential reentry treatment facilities, also called halfway houses, and community based correctional facilities (CBCFs). There are 18 CBCFs in Ohio, OCCA represents 5.

I am also Chief Operations Officer for Community Corrections Association (CCA) in Youngstown, providing a full menu of programming from Chemical Dependency and relapse prevention to parenting and adult basic education, we help those convicted of crime create better lives for themselves and their families. I have over 25 years of experience in this area. CCA currently operates probation pre-trial as well as residential programs in Mahoning County.

Today, I am here to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 263 (HB 263) on behalf of the Ohio Community Corrections Association (OCCA). We support the goals of the bill in allowing persons who have “payed their societal debt” to be eligible for gainful employment. As providers, we know that earning a competitive wage coupled with safe and secure housing promote pro-social life choices for persons with a criminal history.

Unfortunately, there are still a number of collateral sanctions or barriers that prevent full integration following incarceration. HB 263 seeks to move toward one remedy by requiring licensing authorities to identify the nexus between the actual offense and the license that the person is seeking in order to deny the license.

According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), our state enjoyed a 4.2% unemployment rate in 2019. This translates to difficulty for a number of employers finding and retaining qualified workers. It makes good sense to increase the labor pool especially for those who possess marketable skills but are currently prohibited from competing due to arbitrary licensing standards for the jobs that can truly make a difference in someone’s socio-economic quality of life.

Our community correction programs attempt to match persons with jobs that can help them and their families pay their bills and instill a sense of pride. While all of our agencies have a group of employers who are willing to give people a second chance; we still battle the stigma of some who do not see that these efforts actually change lives and make our communities both stronger and safer. Persons in our programs use their incomes to pay restitution, child support, court costs and fees, and invest in our tax infrastructure. If we continue to close the doors on meaningful careers, then we leave our clients few options at rising above public assistance in one form or another.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation that provides solutions for Ohio’s businesses, our workforce, and the families that stand to benefit from bringing steady wages into their homes. Thank you for your time, I am happy to answer questions. Additional questions may be directed to:

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