



Community Based Correctional Facilities

**Eastern Ohio Correctional Center
Wintersville, OH**

Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana,
Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson,
Monroe, Noble

**Franklin County CBCF
Columbus, OH**

Franklin

**Lucas County Correctional
Treatment Facility
Toledo, OH**

Lucas

**MonDay Community Correctional
Institution
Dayton, OH**

Darke, Green, Miami,
Montgomery, Preble, Fayette

**NorthEast Ohio Community
Alternative Program
Warren, OH**

Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage,
Trumbull

**NorthWest Community
Corrections Center
Bowling Green, OH**

Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Williams,
Wood

**River City Correctional Center
Cincinnati, OH**

Hamilton

**STAR Community Justice Center
Franklin Furnace, OH
Nelsonville, OH**

Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton,
Fairfield, Gallia, Highland, Hocking,
Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs,
Morgan, Pickaway, Perry, Pike,
Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Washington

**Stark Regional Correction Center
Louisville, OH**

Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas, Wayne

**W.O.R.T.H. Center
Lima, OH**

Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin,
Mercer, Putnam, Paulding, Shelby,
Van Wert

**West Central Community
Correctional Facility
Marysville, OH**

Champaign, Clark, Delaware,
Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow,
Union

CorJus Position on SB3

Chair Lang and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

CorJus, Inc. is a professional, nonprofit (501 C-6) association comprised of Ohio's publicly operated Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs.) CBCFs are prison diversion residential programs that promote community safety by providing cost efficient, effective services and programming to felony offenders.

CBCFs provide the most secure level of programmatic intervention in the community for eligible felony offenders, which includes education, job training, cognitive behavior therapy, family outreach, and substance abuse treatment during the time of their sentence. CorJus members believe in the power of partnership. The organization embraces a collaborative approach to advancing its mission to provide cost-efficient sentencing and effective programming for offenders to reduce recidivism and protect communities.

Although CorJus supports efforts towards sentencing reform, we believe the concerns raised by the Ohio Judicial Conference have merit due to concerns regarding limiting judicial discretion. As we all have witnessed through the opiate epidemic, the judiciary have often found themselves on the front line combating this issue and having to make difficult judgement with the safety of each defendant in mind as well as preserving public safety.

As the most intensive justice-involved continuum of care option, CBCFs understand the need to increase access to such options for those most in need. The potential changes that SB3 will bring to the criminal justice system will lead to an increased need for access to treatment options at the local level. Without proper funding and infrastructure enhancements in communities across the state, many individuals will be left without access, or awaiting access, to quality treatment programs. The intentions of the legislature in SB3 to improve access to treatment will be for naught if adequate funding efforts are not taken into account. Keeping individuals in the community without the ability to participate in intensive, evidence-based programming, such as that offered in CBCFs, will have a negative impact on public safety, shifting undue burden from the state to local levels.

In the event that Senate Bill 3 were to be enacted in its current form, CorJus respectfully makes the following recommendations to ensure the newly defined unclassified misdemeanors can have received the vital services as determined by the judiciary in a CBCF:

In section 2929.26, we recommend adding language to Section (A) (1) to include, "the common pleas court can sentence an offender who has been found guilty or pled guilty to any unclassified misdemeanor offense to a CBCF, and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will fully fund that diversion as it currently does for any felony diversion".

Sincerely,

Cary Williams, CorJus Trustee

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Committed to Community Corrections Excellence

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