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Community Corrections Association, Inc -
Youngstown

Community Correctional Center,
Talbert House -Lebanon

Community Restoration Centers of Stark
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Ohio Link Corrections & Treatment, Inc. -
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Oriana House, Inc. - Akron, Cleveland,
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Salvation Army Harbor Light - Cleveland

Summit County CBCF Oriana House, Inc. -
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Talbert House - Cincinnati

Turtle Creek, Talbert House - Lebanon

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

Good morning Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary committee, my name is Beau Hill and I am here to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 3. I am currently the executive director of Salvation Army Harbor Light in Cleveland and immediate past president of the Ohio Community Corrections Association.

In 130 countries throughout the world, The Salvation Army opens our arms and hearts to serve those most desperate for physical, emotional, and spiritual support. Because human need differs from nation to nation, state to state, city to city, and even person to person, we seek to find solutions to each situation. Serving Others through the provision of services such as feeding programs and emergency shelters to human trafficking survivors and disaster relief, we are Doing The Most Good wherever and whenever it's needed.

Thank you for your leadership on Senate Bill 3. Our state association appreciates the thoughtful investment of time and energy in your prioritizing treatment, and considering return to the community in this process. As you know, 95% of those incarcerated across the country return. We, in community corrections, help by providing substance use disorder, mental health programming, and job placement in order to make our communities safer.

At the request of the sponsors, we offered initial feedback and look forward to continued dialog.

OCCA favors the misdemeanor designation for low level possession as this is the greatest and most important feature in the bill. As we know, a felony label is often a "scarlet letter" that follows someone long after they have served their punishment and made efforts to become law abiding citizens. Collateral sanctions come in the form of housing and employment limitations, to scholarship and financial aid for schooling. If we are truly just, then the punishment meted out should not linger and follow someone who struggled with drugs after they have completed their sentence. Imposition of a felony for those who were addicted creates a lasting and semi-permanent legacy.

OCCA supports treatment foremost and the clarification around technical violators. The new language on this provision makes it clear that the terms of imprisonment for F4 and F5 violators are 180 days and 90 days respectively. It is important that persons are not sent to prison for violations that are not crimes.

We would like to go on record in support of the governor and the legislature in emphasizing that increased capacity is required to address infrastructure needs with adequate financial appropriations for treatment.

We further support efforts to amend the bill to recognize service provision agreements in counties that have both a municipal and common pleas drug court.

OCCA appreciates that residential community correction facilities are identified as options for drug courts. Currently, misdemeanant offenders that are sentenced to a Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) or halfway house are paid for by the referral source. Making changes in the Revised Code will be necessary to change the funder to the state to avoid a burden to local governments. DRC would also need to promulgate rules for priority placement of the misdemeanant high need substance use disorder population.

Thank you for your time and attention, I am happy to answer any questions.

Additional questions may be directed to:

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