



Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House of Representatives Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of House Bill 403, a bill regarding judicial vetoes of offenders eligible for transitional control throughout the State of Ohio.

This legislation would eliminate the requirement that a sentencing court must assent to the transfer of a prisoner to a transitional control program, which has been in existence since 1996. Allowing those that are incarcerated to utilize the transitional control program would have a tremendous impact on our state's criminal justice system, and would help reduce recidivism.

I would like to provide a few facts concerning transitional control that I hope will help demonstrate why this legislation is necessary:

- The transitional control program has a screening process that establishes eligibility
 - Sex offenders, violent offenders, and/or those with an excessive number of felony convictions, prison incarcerations and those serving mandatory sentences are not eligible for the program
- If an inmate in transitional control leaves a facility, they are charged with felony escape
- Transitional control has a recidivism reduction of up to 16%
 - Currently, inmates being released from prison have a recidivism rate of 38%
 - Placing inmates into the transitional control program, the recidivism rate is reduced to 22%
- 50% of all inmates currently being released from prison are not under any type of supervision of the criminal justice system, but are returning to our communities
 - These individuals are in need of the re-entry services currently provided by the transitional control program provider
- Services currently available to transitional control inmates include resources for supervision, employment, education, vocational training, and substance abuse treatment
- Transitional control inmates gain employment and are able to pay restitution, child support, taxes, and other financial obligations
- The use of the transitional control program includes a residential component, but also utilizes the possibility of movement into electronic monitoring, a cost efficient continuation of the program
- Removing judicial notification makes the transitional control program nearly identical to the Federal Bureau of Prison system

Recent data shows that there are 15 counties in Ohio where judges are vetoing more than 80% of the offenders that come before them for transitional control. An additional 19 counties are vetoing more than 50% of all eligible offenders bringing the overall statewide veto rate to 46%. Removing judicial

notifications places this important decision in the hands of the expert officials at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections who have the benefit of up-to-date daily monitoring of the inmate's progress, abilities, and attitude. This removal would relieve judges from having to reacquaint themselves with a case that has long since left their busy dockets.

I respectfully request your support of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,