



## OHIO JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

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*Joel Potts, Executive Director*

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Ohio House of Representatives  
House Commerce and Labor Committee  
Proponent Testimony - House Bill 187  
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Chair Stein, Vice-Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 187. My name is Joel Potts, and I am the executive director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association (OJFSDA).

OJFSDA represents county department of job and family service (JFS) agencies who administer cash assistance, food assistance/SNAP, childcare, Medicaid (including long-term care, children's health insurance and services to aged, blind and disabled) and adult protective services. Many also serve as the child protective services, child support and workforce development agencies.

House Bill 187 would require an employer to provide earnings and deduction statements to each of their employees. I would like to thank the sponsors of the legislation, Representatives Kelly and Lipps, for bringing this legislation forward and identifying a challenge that employees sometime face as they attempt to verify employment.

County department of job and family service agencies administer one of the largest health, human service and workforce systems in the nation, with one in four Ohioans receiving assistance from the local office at any point in time. The majority of the adults in the JFS system are between the ages of 18 and 60 are employed. Employment information is vital to ensuring benefits are being administered properly.

It is the county's primary duty to ensure clients receive the services they need and are entitled to, as well as ensure program integrity. Verifying incomes is the first step to properly determining eligibility. Without this important information, applications may be delayed, impacting potential work supports (including transportation, childcare, education and training programs), and family supports (such as food and healthcare).

Requiring employers to provide this information is more than just the right thing to do. A job is the best strategy to reduce poverty and employment information provides the foundation for meaningful workforce development programs.

Improving access to employment information would benefit the clients we serve, support work, and make our system more efficient and accountable. The sooner counties obtain employment information, the quicker we can help someone through the system and most accurately determine benefit levels. We want our local agency employees to focus on casework, not paperwork. Less bureaucracy, added work supports, breaking down employment barriers, focusing on outcomes, stabilizing lives, and reducing caseloads by reducing the need for benefits are the over-arching goals of Ohio's programs. The most successful strategy to achieving this goal is to support work and this legislation will help us in these efforts.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.