

Chairman Slaby, members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, my name is Bud Potter and I am the Director of the Franklin County Community Based Correctional Facility and a member of CorJus. CorJus is a professional organization that represents publically operated Community Based Correctional Facilities across Ohio.

The first Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) in Ohio dates back to 1978 and was established to be locally controlled. Today there are 18 CBCFs serving all 88 counties and providing treatment to nearly 6100 offenders each year. CBCFs house certain felony offenders who receive education, job training, and substance abuse treatment during the term of their sentence.

CBCFs are cost efficient and provide an array of treatment options to our residents. Last fiscal year, 91% of CBCF residents received substance abuse programming. On average, CBCF residents advanced almost 2 grade levels in 120 days. Offenders on work release earned over \$1 million out of which they paid taxes, court costs, child support and restitution. In FY 2011, CBCFs provided over 245,000 hours of community service work.

We support many of the sentencing reform components within Sub HB 86 but feel there is a component within the sentencing reform provisions which needs to be redesigned. As currently presented, Sub HB 86 will infringe upon a Judge's ability to sentence moderate risk Felony 4 and 5 offenders to CBCFs. These offenders need treatment in

order to reduce their risk to recidivate.

Currently, there are two sections (Section 2929.15 line 8180 and Section 2929.16 line 8216) which prohibit Judges from sending moderate risk offenders to CBCF's. Because this is a valuable community sentencing option for the Judges who represent our communities we would ask the committee to consider language which includes "moderate" risk offenders alongside "high" risk offenders in both of these sections.

You will recall that in testimony before this committee in March 2011, Dr. Ed Latessa stated "you want to target your interventions, your programs and your services on offenders who are most likely to continue their criminal conduct." In 2010 the results of the University of Cincinnati outcome study stated "moderate and high risk offenders benefit most from intensive correctional programming." Excluding moderate risk felony 4 and 5 offenders from CBCF programs prohibits moderate risk offenders from receiving the 100 hours of needed treatment as described in the research. In many of Ohio's communities the only option available to provide this necessary treatment in the community is found in their local CBCF programs.

Ohio's Judges have changed their sentencing practices. Over the past ten (10) years, the number of Felony 4s and 5s entering the prison system have continued to drop. The resources invested in the communities by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections have enabled Judges to make significant changes to the way they sentence offenders. Sub HB 86 will eliminate certain community sentencing options that currently

exist as front end diversions for Ohio's Courts.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, research shows that CBCFs and all community corrections are part of a holistic approach that encompasses providing community-based options to Judges, Prosecutors and the DRC to manage the prison population in a way that is sensible and does not compromise public safety. CBCFs are a valuable partner with DRC and are in a unique position to keep our communities safe as we combine punishment and treatment. Thank you for your time, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.