



CRIMINAL SENTENCING COMMISSION

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, Chair • Sara Andrews, Director

May 11, 2015

The Honorable Scott Oelslager
Finance Committee, Chair
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Oelslager:

I am writing because recently the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission reviewed and voted on our upcoming priorities. One of those priorities is to support the removal of Halfway Houses as a sentencing service facility in Ohio Revised Code 1.05. The Commission is in favor of deleting the reference to Halfway House in this section as it conflicts with several other definitions in the Revised Code and its inclusion in the definition of imprisonment appears to be an inadvertent error.

As you know, Halfway Houses are identified as a community control sanction, which is defined in ORC 2929.01 as a "sanction that is not a prison termthat is not a jail term" and as a "...suitable facility for the care and treatment of adult offenders." Halfway Houses are not imprisonment – time served is not credited by the court, facilities are staff secured, and residents can leave at any time, but may have consequences from the court if they do so without permission.

Thank you for your diligence and dedication to Ohio citizens and your work on the State operating budget. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and hope to be of service to you and the other members of the General Assembly in the future.

Kind Regards,

Sara Andrews, Director

c: Senator Joe Uecker, Finance – Corrections Subcommittee Chair