

## HB524: Collateral Sanctions

Over the past several months a bipartisan group, including the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Governor's office, legislators, stakeholders and various interested parties, have attended forums across the state to discuss Ohio's outdated criminal statutes and come up with common-sense public policy ideas that would be helpful to ex-offenders' abilities to obtain jobs, to become tax payers, not tax burdens. This bill is a result of the moderate approach taken at these forums and reflects the suggestions from the workgroups.

- Makes a number of common sense reforms such as allowing ex-offenders to become licensed in making eye glasses or hearing aids. Currently a person who has been incarcerated cannot legally become licensed in making eye glasses, even though we train female prisoners this skill at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.
- Prohibits the preclusion of individuals from obtaining or renewing certain licenses, certificates, or permits due to any past criminal history unless the individual had committed a crime of moral turpitude or a disqualifying offense or a crime with a direct nexus to the employment opportunity.
  - With the exception of allowing licensing boards the discretion of denying licensure for 3 years after a felony, and 1 year after a misdemeanor or granting a conditional license of 1 year.
  - Also allows for ex-offenders to have the ability to become licensed in other fields including construction, and cosmetology.
- Creates Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) which relieves, on a limited basis, collateral sanctions imposed by law. The CQE is aimed at those individuals living in the community who have previous felony convictions and/or have served a term of imprisonment. This lifts the automatic bar of a collateral sanction, leaving an employer free to consider on a case by case basis whether it is appropriate to grant or deny a job opportunity, free from being held liable.
  - Former ex-offenders can obtain a CQE through a common pleas judge with the help of a Justice Reinvestment Officers of DRC or their own attorney.
  - This protects employers, who would hire a formerly incarcerated person, from being held liable for negligent hiring.
  - A person can petition to obtain a CQE one year after the completion of their felony conviction or 6 months after the completion of their misdemeanor conviction.
- Addresses some of the driver's license inaccuracies that often lead people to having their license suspended or being put into jail for failure to pay non-moving violations.
- Limits BCI's release of juvenile records to aggravated murder, murder, and any sex offense for which the SORN registry is mandatory.
  - Rather than their current release policies of giving noting juvenile misdemeanors

- Modifies Child Support policies to permit Child Support Enforcement Agencies to utilize actual earning potential for an individual reentering society with a conviction based upon their new limited earning capabilities.
  - Previously, the earnings of a person prior to conviction were used to calculate payments creating an unrealistic expectation for those just released from prison.
- Expands eligibility for the sealing of records to allow first time misdemeanor and felony convictions charged in separate indictments to each have one opportunity for sealing, rather than a single opportunity for either a misdemeanor or a felony. It also allows for the sealing of two misdemeanors so long as they are not the same offense.
- Allows judges the discretion to seal non support convictions if the offender is current in their child support obligations.
- Increases, from 18 to 21, the age at which certain offenders may be held in places not authorized for the confinement of children.
- Increases the juvenile court's jurisdiction over certain specified cases solely for the purpose of detaining a person while the person's case is heard in adult court.
- Reduces the penalty for driving under suspension if the suspension was imposed as part of the penalty for certain violations that don't directly involve the operation of a motor vehicle.
- Defines the terms "moral turpitude" and "disqualifying offenses" as applied to certain employment.
- These provisions lifting employment barriers in certain licensing occupations only affect non-violent and non-sexual related crimes.
- These provisions and the removal of collateral sanctions would not apply when a direct nexus exists between the offense and the employment opportunity.
  - For example, this bill would not eliminate barriers to employment for someone convicted of check fraud, who then applies for a job at a bank.



# OPNFF

Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families  
[www.ohiofathers.org](http://www.ohiofathers.org)

## Mission

Enhance the outcomes of children, families, and community by providing information, training and encouragement to fathers and family-serving organizations

## Vision

Practitioners and organizations throughout Ohio will intentionally and strategically engage fathers in their work with families because of the collaborative efforts of OPNFF

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# **Institute for Fathers and Families**

**A Partnership between the Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions and the Ohio Practitioner Network for Fathers and Families**

The Institute for Fathers and Families will develop through a unique partnership between Ohio University and the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families. It will be the only such structure in the nation. In an era when large numbers of children grow up without their fathers in their lives, an institute focusing on factors impacting father involvement, strategies to promote father involvement, and policies and laws that would enhance involvement would be an important resource in the State of Ohio and across the nation. This institute would bring together researchers and teachers at Ohio University and throughout the nation with practitioners and professionals from the Network.

## **Institute Mission**

**To conduct high-quality, independent research in order to provide evidence-based, innovative, and practical policy and program recommendations to improve the well-being of children and families by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible fathers.**



### **The Institute will:**

- Provide support for fatherhood researchers both internal and external to the University
- Maintain a clearinghouse of fatherhood research, policy analyses and program evaluation reports
- Analyze of legal and policy approaches to enhancing fatherhood and improving outcomes for children and families
- Provide program evaluation support for fatherhood-focused programs
- Lead outreach to local, state, and national policymakers
- Develop a father involvement survey protocol and a broad dataset that includes data across locations and time periods
- Conduct training opportunities for practitioners
- Sponsor research seminars and practitioner conferences focused on various father populations and fatherhood issues.

## Why Fatherhood Matters:

- 36% of all children in America are growing up without their father in their lives
- Over 40% of all children in America are born to unwed mothers
- Children growing up with their fathers are more likely to complete school and less likely to engage in juvenile delinquency and other problematic behaviors.
- A child growing up with a nonresident father is five times more likely to be poor.
- 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes.
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.



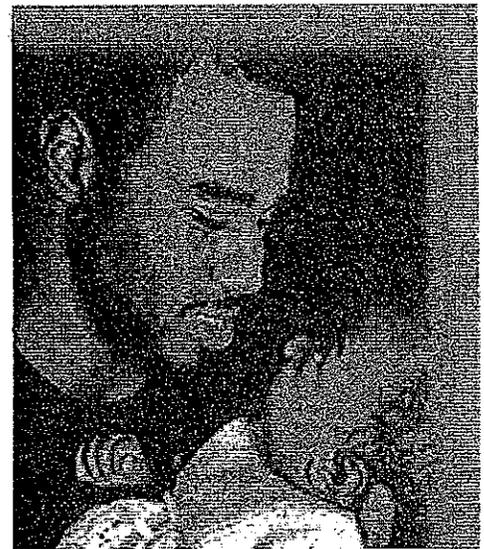
## Institute Resources

- **Institute Director:** Provide overall leadership for the Institute, serve as lead researcher, act as liaison to other institutions, teacher father-focused courses
- **Administrative Associate:** Provide support for Institute activities, respond to requests for evaluation or research support, maintain research/practice clearinghouse, assist director in Institute work
- **Father Involvement Researchers:** Affiliated faculty from Ohio University and other institutions who will examine various aspects of fatherhood and the impact of father involvement on children
- **Policy/Legal Fellows:** Policy specialists who will develop policy briefs, seminars, and other forms of support to legislators, policymakers, and advocates
- **Practitioner Support Network:** Specialists who will provide support to fatherhood-focused programs in developing interventions/program activities and in evaluating those activities

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### The following funding levels would provide support for an institute:

- \$1 million will fully endow an institute. This will generate approximately \$80,000 per year in supporting funding.
- \$250,000 will endow a faculty chair in fatherhood scholarship
- \$200,000 will fund institute start-up and the first two years of institute operations
- \$100,000 will endow a fatherhood-focused lecture series
- \$75,000 will fund a year of evaluation research support for fatherhood programs across Ohio
- \$30,000 will fully fund a two-day conference on a fatherhood topic or issue
- \$25,000 will endow one scholarship for a student interested in conducting fatherhood research or studying aspects of fatherhood
- \$10,000 will support a faculty/student team in the development of an interview protocol for a statewide father involvement research study or the development of fatherhood program evaluation instruments
- \$7,500 will provide a small grant for a fatherhood-focused faculty research team
- \$5,000 will provide support for the development of 1-2 father-focused policy analyses
- \$1,000 will fund a single year of scholarship support for a student interested in fatherhood



Father absence is the most critical social issue of our times. Developing an institute to improve father presence will have enormous social and economic benefit.

*-James McDonald*

*Chairperson, Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families*

With your support, we can make a difference in the lives of children. An Institute focused on enhancing father involvement with their children is an example of the promise of our college to help improve the lives of children and families. The partnership with OPNFF makes that promise even stronger.

*-Randy Leite*

*Dean, College of Health Sciences and Professions*



#### College of Health Sciences and Professions Vision

The College of Health Sciences and Professions will be a college of distinction in preparing health and human service professionals whose work reflects the highest standards of collaboration, ethics, innovation, and commitment to all, especially underserved individuals and populations.

#### Ohio Practitioner Network for Fathers and Families Mission

The Mission of OPNFF is to enhance the outcomes of children, families, and communities by providing information, training, and encouragement to father and family-serving practitioners



For more information on the Institute for Fathers and Families or to support the Institute, contact:

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