



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

*****Press Release*****

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Senator Tavares Presents Testimony for Bill That Provides Tax Credit to Employers Who Hire Ex-felons

Columbus – State Senator Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) today presented testimony to the Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee regarding Senate Bill 58 which she sponsored. Senate Bill 58 will create a tax credit for businesses that hire convicted felons within one year after their conviction or after being released from incarceration.

Employers will have the opportunity to reduce their overhead costs by employing individuals who have been incarcerated or convicted of a felony. Businesses who employ ex-offenders will qualify to receive the maximum tax credit allowed by this bill which is \$2400. The bill is patterned after similar federal law that provides a federal tax credit.

“These are people who simply desire the opportunity to get their life back on track,” Senator Tavares said. “And as legislators we are dedicated to providing job opportunities for *all* Ohioans.”

Tavares is encouraging the chairman of the committee, Senator Tim Schaffer (R-31st District) to place the bill on the calendar for proponent testimony.

“Studies show that employing ex-offenders soon after they are released is a critical part of re-entry that could reduce the likelihood of additional convictions or returning to prison,” said Senator Tavares. “We want them to be tax payers and not dependent upon benefits. The cost to the taxpayer is \$25,000 per year per inmate versus a tax credit for the employer of up to a maximum of \$2400.”