

## Testimony on RECLAIM Advisory Committee

### Sunset Review Committee

June 10, 2020

Chair Roegner and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Anthony Panzino and I am Chief of the Bureau of Community Reinvestment at the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). I am here today to testify on behalf of the RECLAIM Advisory Committee.

RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to Incarceration of Minors) is an initiative which encourages juvenile courts to develop or purchase a range of community-based options to meet the needs of each juvenile offender or youth who are at-risk of offending. Participating counties receive funding from DHS to help fund these community alternatives. RECLAIM is often cited nationally as a success story in juvenile justice reform and has enabled Ohio to significantly reduce the number of youth incarcerated in state juvenile correctional facilities.

The RECLAIM Advisory Committee is charged by ORC with evaluating the RECLAIM initiative. The committee is a separate body from RECLAIM but gives feedback on its operation. Statute specifically mentions that the advisory committee should evaluate the funding levels, the funding formula, and the implementation of RECLAIM by the counties.

The membership of the committee is made up of juvenile court judges, members of the General Assembly, designees of the DHS and OBM directors, juvenile court administrators, and county commissioners. The committee typically meets quarterly for two hours at a time. Members are not compensated and the committee has no staff and no budget. A handful of DHS staff help to compile the agenda and give updates at the meetings.

The RECLAIM Advisory Committee is an important forum for DHS to receive feedback and suggestions from the local officials who utilize this initiative in our communities. It is also an opportunity for these officials and for DHS to have a dialogue with members of the General Assembly, who are responsible for funding the department and for setting juvenile justice policy for Ohio.

The RECLAIM Advisory Committee is of value to the State of Ohio and DHS recommends that it be renewed by the Sunset Review Committee. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I would now be happy to answer any questions you may have.