

2000 Stop the Clock Campaign

On February 16, 2000, Rep. Dale Miller of Cleveland introduced [HB 578](#) in the Ohio House. [HB 578](#) extends the Ohio Works First three year time limit to receive public assistance (formerly AFDC) to five consecutive years. The bill calls for a moratorium on time limits if Ohio enters a recession. In addition, the legislation makes changes in Ohio's sanction policy by ending a sanction when the recipient complies with the work requirement, with a pro-rated check from the date of compliance. It also restores the adult's portion of food stamps so that no food stamps are cut when a household is sanctioned.

Co-sponsors of the bill include Rep. Catherine Barrett (Cincinnati) and Rep. Sam Britton (Cincinnati). Senator C.J. Prentiss of Cleveland plans to introduce similar legislation in the next couple of weeks.

The majority of states are allowing poor families the full five consecutive years allowable under the federal government. In addition, some states have chosen to continue providing benefits or vouchers with state funds for families who reach the Federal limit. In contrast, Ohio has chosen to implement one of the harsher time limit policies in America. Ohio has a three year limit which will end cash assistance for families with children on October 1, 2000. According to the Children's Defense Fund, 26,000 families are slated to be cut off on October first. 55,000 children are expected to lose their cash assistance across the state. <http://www.overtherhine.org/sanction>

[Ohio Welfare Sanction Survey](#)

The OEC is currently working on a project to help reduce the harshness of Welfare Sanctions in our state. Ohio currently has one of the most punitive sanction policies in the country. We are helping to organize around the Welfare Corrections Bill in the State Legislature. <http://www.overtherhine.org/contactcenter/99survey>

[Welfare Reform: What Price Success?](#)

The Contact Center retained Applied Information Resources [AIR, Inc.], a public policy research organization, to conduct a research study designed to determine how welfare reform was working at the human level. The study included a review of research elsewhere; an examination of data prepared by the Hamilton County Department of Human Services; 7 Focus Groups of persons who had been on welfare in October of 1997 and two survey instruments filled out by participants in the Focus Groups.

If you would like more information on the Ohio Empowerment Coalition you can e-mail us at contactcenter@overtherhine.org or call us at **513-381-4242**.