June 22, 2021

Re: final state budget negotiations

Dear Governor DeWine, Senate President Huffman, House Speaker Cupp, Minority Leader Yuko, Minority Leader Sykes, and members of the Conference Committee:

We believe all Ohioans, whether white, Black, or brown, deserve to thrive. The pandemic has shown that investing in the health and well-being of one person is critical to protecting the health and well-being of us all. That’s why we are calling on you to pass a state budget that provides a foundation of security, stability, and basic human dignity for all of us — no exceptions.

We look to you as state leaders to build a recovery for all Ohioans, but the Senate-passed budget takes Ohio in the opposite direction. It removes the plan to fairly and equitably fund our K-12 schools, dismantles the state’s foundation for ensuring high-quality child care, and removes critical funding to expand broadband access to our neighbors across the state. Another change will lead to fewer affordable housing options for low-income seniors, people with disabilities and parents trying to provide a better life for their children. At the last minute, provisions were slipped in to make it harder for people to get enough food to eat, health care and other basic necessities. All of these changes will be damaging to the long-term health and well-being of children, adults and families all across the state, particularly Ohioans with low wages.

At the same time, the Senate budget proposes $1.3 billion in tax cuts that would primarily benefit the wealthiest Ohioans and corporations. State lawmakers have cut income taxes for the wealthiest Ohioans for 16 years, and Ohio continues to fall behind the nation on jobs, wages and overall quality of life. This approach led to a slow recovery after the last recession, and it will leave
tens of thousands of Ohioans less prepared to weather the next storm. It will also inevitably lead
to cuts to education, healthcare and essential services we all rely on in future budgets. We need
to apply lessons from the past to today’s challenges to forge a better way forward for all Ohioans.

Ohio can be the best state to raise a family. We can build a state where all children have a world-
class education and all parents can afford to send their children to a high-quality child care
setting. We can build a state where all people have enough food to eat, a roof over their head,
and access to broadband. We can build a state where everyone has access to physical and
behavioral healthcare. Let’s invest in what really matters — our education, our well-being and our
future.

In order to move Ohio in this direction, we ask that you pass a budget that makes the following
changes:

● Restore the Fair School Funding Plan to adequately and equitably fund K-12 education.
● Restore $190 million in funding to expand broadband access and remove language that
restricts local governments from providing service to their residents.
● Remove provisions from Senate Bill 17 to ensure children and families who most need
support can continue to access SNAP and Medicaid.
● Restore Step Up to Quality to ensure high-quality child care for all of our children.
● Remove the amendment (similar to SB 36 introduced in the 133rd General Assembly) that
would exacerbate Ohio’s affordable housing shortage.
● Remove the 5% income tax cut that primarily benefits the wealthiest Ohioans.

We, the undersigned organizations and Ohio residents, stand united in our support for these
changes to the final state budget and our hope for a better future for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Statewide Organizations

1. ACTION OHIO Coalition for Battered Women
2. Advocates for Ohio’s Future
3. Children’s Defense Fund Ohio
4. Communications Workers of America, D4
5. Groundwork Ohio
6. Hunger Network in Ohio
7. Juvenile Justice Coalition
8. League of Women Voters of Ohio
9. MOVE Ohio
10. National Multiple Sclerosis Society
11. Ohio AFL-CIO
12. Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund
13. Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children
14. Ohio Association of Foodbanks
15. Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition
16. Ohio Council of Churches
17. Ohio Domestic Violence Network
18. Ohio Education Association
19. Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice
20. Ohio Federation of Teachers
21. Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition
22. Ohio National Organization for Women
23. Ohio Organizing Collaborative
24. Ohio Poverty Law Center
25. Ohio Progressive Asian Women’s Leadership
26. Ohio Urban Resources System
27. Ohio Women’s Public Policy Network
28. Ohio Workforce Coalition
29. One Ohio Now
30. Organize! Ohio
31. Policy Matters Ohio
32. Public Education Partners
33. Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio
34. URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity

Local / Regional Organizations
35. Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), Toledo
36. Antonine Sisters Adult Day Care, Inc., North Jackson
37. Antonine Village, North Jackson
38. Area 14 Workforce Development Board, Athens
39. Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District, Cleveland
40. Caring Friends Food Pantry, Bellefontaine
41. Childhood Food Solutions, West Chester
42. Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador Episcopa, Cincinnati
43. Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, Cincinnati
44. Cleveland Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition, Cleveland
45. Cleveland Jobs with Justice, Cleveland
46. Clevelanders for Public Transit, Cleveland
47. Community Housing Solutions, Cleveland
48. Community Partnership on Aging, South Euclid
49. Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, Middleburg Heights
50. Dayton Cooks – Wesley Community Center, Dayton
51. East End Neighborhood Development Corporation, Dayton
52. Firelands Bethel Church, Inc, Sandusky
53. First United Methodist Food Pantry, Van Wert
54. Freestore Foodbank, Cincinnati
55. Global Cleveland, Cleveland
56. Hall Hunger Initiative, Dayton
57. Healthy Community Partnership - Mahoning Valley, Youngstown
58. Heartland Conference UCC, Worthington
59. Hocking Athens Perry Community Action, Glouster
60. Homeless Congress, Cleveland
61. Hope Collective Church, Dayton
62. IMPACT Community Action, Columbus
63. Insure Our Future, East Canton
64. InterReligious Task Force on Central America, Cleveland
65. It Takes a Village, Lorain
66. It Takes a Village to Tackle HB70, Lorain
67. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Cleveland
68. Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, Worthington
69. Mid-Ohio Food Collective, Grove City
70. Montgomery County Commissioners, Dayton
71. Ms. Shelly's Place Academy, West Carrollton
72. Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Cleveland
73. Northeast Ohio Worker Center, Cleveland
74. Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, Denver
75. Oberlin Community Services Council, Oberlin
76. Ohio NOW Education and Legal Fund, Brecksville
77. Perfecting Saints Heart to Heart Ministries, Akron
78. Pint Size Protesters, Columbus
79. R4 Workforce, Moreland Hills
80. Second Harvest Food Bank CCL, Springfield
81. Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, Lorain
82. Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley, Youngstown
83. Southeast Ohio Foodbank & Kitchen, Glouster
84. St. Pauls Community Outreach, Cleveland
85. The Foodbank, Inc., Dayton
86. The Literacy Cooperative, Cleveland
87. The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, Cleveland
88. The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio, Columbus
89. Towards Employment, Cleveland
90. Union Avenue United Methodist Church, Sebring
91. United Way of Greater Toledo, Toledo
92. Wesley Community Center, Inc., Dayton
93. West Ohio Food Bank, Lima
94. Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry, Columbus
95. West Side Catholic Center, Westlake
96. Xenia FISH Food Pantry, Xenia
97. Your Store of the Queen City, Cincinnati

Concerned Ohio Residents
Adam Artman, Shaker Heights
Adam Whiting, Cleveland
Alex Coccia, Columbus
Alexandra Sims, Cincinnati
Alexis Critchley, Columbus
Rev. Alice Diebel, Dayton
Alice Petersen, Toledo
Alison Paxson, Columbus
Alissa Smith, Rockbridge
Allison Ward, Beloit
Aloysius Wald, Columbus
Amanda Stevens, New Boston
Amy Hutchinson, Tipp City
Andrea Inverso, Danville
Andrea Turner, Cleveland Heights
Andrea Procopan, Oberlin
Andrew Beck, Cincinnati
Andrew Ritterman, Lyndhurst
Angela Ciccia, Cleveland
Angela Nobbs, Girard
Anita Beck, Worthington
Ann Kocks, Cleveland Heights
Ann Pelzer, Strongsville
Anne Antonio, Willoughby
Annick Richardson, Kettering
Ariel Miller, Cincinnati
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Ashley Shepard, Gallipolis
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Barbara Olson, Monroe
Barbara Sorrell, Milford
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Beverly Wolf, Zanesfield
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Carolyn Rice, Dayton
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Cathy Cowan Becker, Grove City
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Chris Thompson, Strongsville
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Constance Minerovic, Painesville
Constance Mulder, Portsmouth
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Dallas Schubert, Cleveland Heights
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David Hansen, Cleveland Heights
David Jennings, Columbus
Rep. David Leland, Columbus
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Dawn Wojcik, Trotwood
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Debbie Schmieding, Athens
Deborah Cooper, Worthington
Deborah Guddy, Elyria
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Dennis Dyer, Ashland
Dennis Kay, Bellbrook
Dennis Lynch, Cincinnati
Diana Young, Vermilion
Diane Bailey, Reynoldsburg
Diane Baldwin, Loveland
Diane Diernbach, Mineral Ridge
Diane Dodge, Brecksville
Dianne Schubeck, Garrettsville
Dillion Gallagher, Cleveland
Don Pew, Girard
Donald and Charlotte Scherer, Bowling Green
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Donna Sudar, Euclid
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Elizabeth Stiles, Cleveland
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Erin O’Daniel, Galena
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Gail Long, Shaker Hts.
Genna Petrolla, Cleveland
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Geoffrey Miller, Cleveland
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Gisela Eder, Mans.
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Harold Chichester, Columbus
Heather Fisher, Chesterland
Heather Tubbs Cooley, Dublin
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Mary Macvicar, Columbus
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Mary Worthington, Oberlin
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Terry Crogan, Boardman
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Thomas Bennett, Shaker Heights
Thomas Johnson, Dayton
Thomas Hayes, Cleveland Heights
Tiara Chambers, Cincinnati
Tim Bonfield, Cincinnati
Tim Walters, Cleveland
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Tom Bullock, Lakewood
Toni Seese, Brunswick
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