



June 16, 2020

The Honorable Paolo A. DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Superintendent DeMaria:

We, the undersigned Members of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly, write to urge the Ohio Department of Education to heed the original intent of the United States Congress when it passed the CARES Act. This legislation deliberately provided support for and targeted relief to students who are most in need. Our letter echoes the calls from the Ohio 8 Coalition, requesting that ODE direct funds to students living in poverty.

As you know, instead of respecting the Title I formula and methodology which Congress prescribed in the CARES Act, the U.S. Department of Education has issued guidance that these limited funds be distributed to all students regardless of their family's income. If ODE were to implement this guidance, school districts would be forced to dilute the impact of federal dollars at a time when they should be marshalling all available resources to assist impoverished students with remote learning and prepare for the next school year.

The past few months have laid bare the inequities that exist across our state, which is why Ohio must distribute CARES Act dollars as Congress meant for them to be distributed. Following watered-down guidance from the U.S. Department of Education will weaken Ohio's ability to address the unique needs of low-income children, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth.

On behalf of students living in poverty across Ohio, we implore you to respect the spirit of Congress and distribute funding based on the law outlined in the CARES Act, which will provide critical support and relief to those most in need during these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service to Ohio.

CC: The Honorable Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio

Sincerely,



Nickie J. Antonio
State Senator
23rd District



Gil Blair
State Representative
63rd District



Janine Boyd
State Representative
9th District



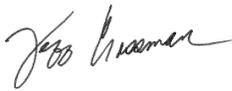
Juanita O. Brent
State Representative
12th District



Randi Clites
State Representative
75th District



Erica C. Crawley
State Representative
26th District



Jeffrey A. Crossman
State Representative
15th District



Sedrick Denson
State Representative
33rd District



Teresa Fedor
State Senator
11th District



Tavia Galonski
State Representative
35th District



Stephanie D. Howse
State Representative
11th District



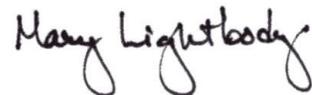
Brigid Kelly
State Representative
31st District



David Leland
State Representative
22nd District



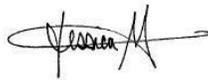
Michelle Lepore-Hagan
State Representative
58th District



Mary Lightbody
State Representative
19th District



Joseph A. Miller III
State Representative
56th District



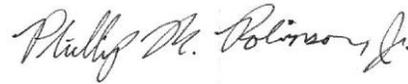
Jessica E. Miranda
State Representative
28th District



Michael J. O'Brien
State Representative
64th District



John Patterson
State Representative
99th District



Philip M. Robinson, Jr.
State Representative
6th District



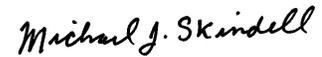
John M. Rogers
State Representative
60th District



C. Allison Russo
State Representative
24th District



Michael Sheehy
State Representative
46th District



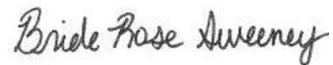
Michael J. Skindell
State Representative
13th District



Kent Smith
State Representative
8th District



Lisa A. Sobecki
State Representative
45th District



Bride Rose Sweeney
State Representative
14th District



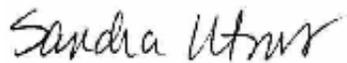
Terrence Upchurch
State Representative
10th District



Casey Weinstein
State Representative
37th District



Thomas West
State Representative
49th District



Sandra Williams
Senate Assistant Minority Whip
21st District