



Dear Neighbor,

Yesterday, June 25th, the Ohio House voted on the final version of the state operating budget. Although, all of my democratic colleagues did not agree with the budget, it was passed out of the House with a vote of 59-38. This is the first time in more than a decade that a budget passed without any Democrats voting for it, this just shows how harmful this budget is to the everyday Ohioan. Although, there were a few positive items, it is hard to be proud of a budget that creates tax cuts for wealthy people, funds a stadium for billionaires, shifts our property tax issue unto local governments, cuts H2Ohio funding, underfunds 988 and lowers quality standards for community schools. I am appalled and hope in the future both sides of the aisle can work together to create a budget that helps working class citizens and all Ohioans; not just the wealthy. The state operating budget is currently heading to the Governor's office for his signature to be signed into law.

Sincerely,

State Representative Terrence Upchurch
Ohio's 20th House District
Ohio Legislative Black Caucus President



- **Creates Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Program:** Provides \$1.25M/FY to establish the financial literacy and Workforce Readiness Programming Initiative
- **Creates Diabetes Informational Materials:** Requires ODH to create informational materials on Type 1 Diabetes and schools provide a copy for parents
- **Expands the Child Care Voucher Program:** Vouchers assists families with child care costs the earn up to 200% of the federal poverty line
- **PFFCC Eligibility got Homeless Families:** Allows families that are homeless to be eligible for publicly funded child care for 12 months
- **Creates Unemployment Compensation Integrity Board:** Will advise JFS in the administration and enforcement of the unemployment system
- **SNAP EBT card hotline:** Requires JFS to enable callers to report lost or stolen SNAP EBT cards
- **Hospital Package and Franchise Fee Increase:** Supports hospital upper payment limit programs and offsets to Medicaid spending
- **Increase to Personal Needs Allowance:** Increases the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 for single people and \$100 to \$150 for couples
- **Expands Support for Children with Special Health Needs:** Increases max age to 26 for participants in the program and increases funding to \$13.1M in FY26
- **Free Clinic Safety Net Services:** Assists in reimbursing free clinics for health care services provided, administrative services and other clinic necessities.
- **Established OhioSEE Program:** Funds \$5M/FY and established the Ohio Student Eye Exam Program to provide vision care services to K-3 students who fail their vision screenings and might not have access to follow-up care
- **Domestic Violence Project Earmark:** Offers technical support and resources to enhance courts' responses to domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault
- **Star House:** Provides \$250k/FY to Star House who provides housing and resources for youth experiencing homelessness
- **Replenishes Brownfield Remediation Funding:** Eliminates first-come first-serve language instead requiring Development Director to make merit-based awards.
- **Welcome Home Ohio Program Changes:** Makes changes to the Welcome Home Ohio program eligibility criteria
- **Minority Business Development Loan Administration:** Requires Minority Business Development Loan Administration ALI to be used to operate the Women Owned Loan and Minority Business Micro-Loan programs
- **Mains Helping Ohioans Stay in their Homes Funding & Ohio Housing Trust Fund Fees**
- **Expedited Pardon Initiative:** \$500k/FY to support projects connecting rehabilitated citizens with community projects to advance the expedited pardon initiative and help eligible individuals navigate the process and access clemency
- **Transitional Housing Funding:** Requires priority given to residential providers that accept and house released individuals
- **Authorizes Public Records Exemption for Automated License Plate Readers:** Exempts images and data captured by an automated license plate recognition system that are maintained in law enforcement databases
- **Caps Tuition and Fee Increase:** Prohibits state universities from charging a guaranteed amount of tuition and fees more than 3% above what was charged the year prior
- **Public Transportation:** Maintains funding at introduced level \$37M/FY



- **School Funding Changes:** Completes the phase-in, eliminates supplemental target assistance, creates performance supplement.
- **Creates Non-chartered Educational Savings Account Program:** 75% of an EdChoice Scholarship into an educational savings account for tuition and fees for any nonpublic school student not enrolled in a state voucher program
- **Lowers Quality Standards for Community Schools:** Enables more community schools to qualify as “quality” by lowering criteria of who qualifies
- **Cut TANF Block Grant Funding for Child Care**
- **Cut Infant Vitality Funding (infant mortality prevention)**
- **Underfunds 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**
- **Medicaid Services Funding Below Ohio Department of Medicaid Recommendation**
- **Cuts to Medicaid Program Support:** Over \$1.2B
- **Eliminates 0-3yr Old Continuous Enrollment:** Eliminates Law Requiring continuous Medicaid enrollment waiver for birth to three
- **Prohibits Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at Department of Medicaid:** Prohibits ODM from paying for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives
- **Decreases Drug Overdose Funding:** Reduces funding for patient care in addiction services
- **Eliminates and Lowers Lead Abatement Programs:** Reduces funding for lead investigations, blood lead testing, housing and rehabilitation initiatives and general prevention
- **Children’s Dental Services Program:** Removes executive budget provisions that requires Department of Health to provide dental care services to kids in underserved areas using mobile dental units
- **Creates Only Two-Sexes Policy:** State recognizes only two sexes, male and female
- **Prohibits Funds for Emergency Abortion Referrals:** Removes exemption allowing funds for counsel in case of a medical emergency, as well as genetic testing
- **Removes LUPUS Awareness Funding:** Eliminates \$250K/FY to the Lupus Foundation of America to operate lupus education and awareness program
- **Driver’s Training Requirements:** Requires all individuals under 21 to complete full driver’s education and 50 hours of practice to get a license
- **Eliminates Mental Health Support Line Item:** Eliminates support to address behavioral health needs at public and private universities
- **Drastically cuts Campus Sexual Violence Safety and Training:** Cuts program by 70%
- **Flat Income Tax:** Cuts the top bracket rate from 3.5% to 3.125%
- **Shifts Property Tax Relief to Local Governments:** This restricts how schools can save funds and plan longer term while offering minimal tax savings punishing large districts that have larger budgets and restricts levying
- **Changes to Library Funding:** Amounts are 36.6M less in FY 26 and \$39.9 less in FY 27
- **Cuts H2Ohio Funding:** Appropriates \$165M in FY26, down from \$270M in FY 25
- **Sports Facility Grant Fund and Unclaimed Funds:** Support the Brookpark Browns stadium project (transfers unclaimed funds to the state after 10 years)
- **Ohio Maritime Assistance Program:** Transfers \$10M FY26 and requires 10% to be used for the Ohio River Commission to develop and promote economic activity
- **Creates Restriction on Library Materials:** Requires a public library material related to sexual orientation or gender identity in a portion of the library not open to the view of minors