



July 17, 2019

Dear Governor DeWine,

We are writing to respectfully request that you utilize your line-item veto authority to strike certain items from the recently passed Am. Sub. H.B. 155, the State's biennium budget bill. Each of the items below are of significant interest to our respective House Districts and, by leaving these items in the bill, these items have the potential to hurt the constituents of our Districts.

While we both supported the budget as a whole, the following items were particularly problematic and we urge you to strike them from an otherwise productive budget bill:

**1. The Funding Cap on Distribution of Local Government Funds (LGF) For Municipalities Exceeding 50,000 In Population**

While this limitation impacts only a portion of the LGF, municipalities in our Districts need every dollar available given the many years of deep cuts imposed by the State. These funds are typically invested in the District and help create jobs in our communities. Prohibiting the distribution of even a portion of these funds appears inequitable, especially given that a larger portion of these funds are raised in larger municipalities rather than the smaller townships where these funds will now be shifted to.

**2. Rollback of Charter School Oversight Imposed in HB2 In The 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly**

As you are no doubt aware, the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly imposed stricter oversight on charter schools given the well documented issues with poor performing schools funded by tax-payers. These measures enhanced transparency and provided tax-payers with assurance that poor performing schools were held to account. We urge a veto of the measures included in the budget bill that seek to undo these important policy objectives.

**3. The Primary Election Date Change to March 17, 2020 (St. Patrick's Day)**

As we recently noted in our correspondence to the Secretary of State, selecting a widely celebrated holiday to hold an important election is bad policy and rife for problems. In conference committee, several alternatives were offered to ensure the integrity of the State's election which were rejected, including retaining the current date of March 10, 2020 or holding the election one week after the holiday. Given that these alternatives were rejected, we urge you to strike the March 17, 2020 election date change.

#### **4. Repeal of the Tax Credit For Small Dollar Contributions**

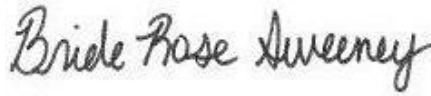
With respect to ensuring fair elections, repealing the existing tax credit currently available for small dollar contributors skews the balance of election in favor of large dollar donors such as corporations, which will now be permitted to contribute up \$13,292.35 to one candidate during a primary and then again in a general election. We urge you to retain this modest tax credit of \$50 to persons that wish to contribute at a lower level to help equalize the influence of large donors on elections and allow all citizens to have a voice in an election.

We appreciate your consideration of these line item veto requests and welcome any opportunity to discuss these items with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jeffrey A. Crossman  
District 15



Rep. Bride Sweeney  
District 14

cc: Minority Leader Emilia Sykes