



Ohio House Democratic Caucus

Speaker Larry Householder
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High St, 14th FL
Columbus, OH 43215

June 2, 2020

Dear Speaker Householder,

We, the undersigned members of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus, write today to express serious concerns regarding whether the House is properly addressing the safety of its members. Recent events suggest that more could and should be done now to discourage further threats or any inclination people may have to act violently toward members.

As you are aware, serious threats were leveled against Minority Leader Sykes and her father, Senator Sykes. As of today, Governor DeWine, Senate President Obhof, Senate Minority Leader Yuko, Attorney General Dave Yost, and Secretary of State Frank LaRose have all issued public statements supporting Leader Sykes and Senator Sykes and condemning the threats made against them; they have even offered their assistance. A similar statement from you as well as an offer of temporary additional security for Leader Sykes would go a long way in addressing our concerns.

As Speaker and in recognition of your leadership role in the Ohio House of Representatives, you are granted additional security while in the statehouse as well as a driver to provide safe escort for you. As members of the minority caucus, we feel strongly that our own leadership is similarly deserving of heightened security protection, especially given the recent threats and the increasing animus in this political environment.

Since the beginning of this General Assembly multiple members in both caucuses have received and had to endure violent threats against them. While some would label the increasing vitriol in the political discourse or the blatant misinformation that is used by some to rile up their constituencies as "politics," recent events demonstrate the fallout

from such comments. We should stand together and condemn this type of reckless behavior wherever we find it. To do otherwise jeopardizes everyone, including our staff.

Your leadership in this matter and your offer of additional security measures to Leader Sykes, such as providing temporary increased security and a more secured parking spot will speak volumes about your commitment to member safety.

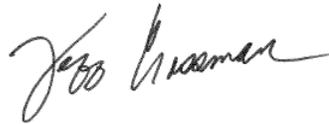
When we selected you as the Speaker, you committed to being a leader for all 99 elected representatives. While our caucuses may sometimes disagree on policy, we should always agree on the fact that we all have a right to express our positions without being threatened with physical violence. Given the recent increase in vitriol in the political climate of our state and our country, it is imperative now more than ever that we come together to loudly and clearly discourage such behavior.

We await your reply.

Sincerely,



Rep. Lisa Sobecki
House District 45



Rep. Jeff Crossman
House District 15



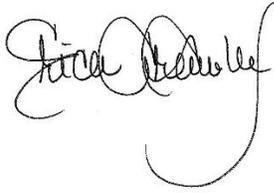
Rep. Kristin Boggs
Assistant Minority Leader
House District 18



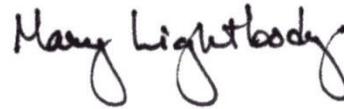
Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson
Minority Whip
House District 44



Rep. Rich Brown
Assistant Minority Whip
House District 20



Rep. Erica Crawley
House District 26



Rep. Mary Lightbody
House District 19



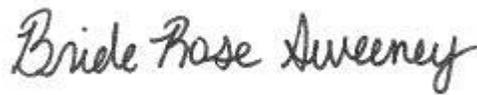
Rep. Beth Liston
House District 21



Rep. Michael Skindell
House District 13



Rep. David Leland
House District 22



Rep. Bride Sweeney
House District 14



Rep. Janine Boyd
House District 9



Rep. Juanita Brent
House District 12



Rep. Fred Strahorn
House District 39



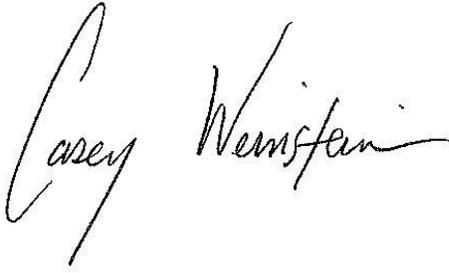
Rep. Thomas West
House District 49



Rep. Tavia Galonski
House District 35



Rep. Michael O'Brien
House District 64



Rep. Casey Weinstein
House District 37



Rep. Catherine Ingram
House District 32



Rep. Allison Russo
House District 24



Rep. John Rogers
House District 60



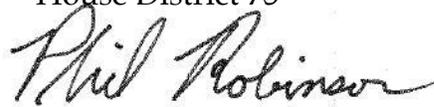
Rep. Jessica Miranda
House District 28



Rep. Randi Clites
House District 75



Rep. Sedrick Denson
House District 33



Rep. Phil Robinson
House District 6



Rep. Michael Sheehy
House District 46



Rep. Gil Blair
House District 63



Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan
House District 58



Rep. Kent Smith
House District 8



Rep. Stephanie Howse
House District 11



Rep. Brigid Kelly
House District 31



Rep. Terrence Upchurch
House District 10



Rep. Joe Miller
House District 56



Rep. John Patterson
House District 99



Rep. Jack Cera
House District 96

