



July 5, 2017

The Honorable Larry Obhof, President
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio

Dear President Obhof,

We write on behalf of our members, the public school district boards of education, superintendents, treasurers, and other school business officials from across the state. We respectfully request that you take action to override Governor John Kasich's vetoes of four important education related items contained in the legislature's final version of HB 49, the biennial budget bill for FY2018 and FY2019.

We support the priority placed on public education by the Ohio General Assembly in HB 49, particularly given the current fiscal situation at the state level. The following provisions passed by the General Assembly were meant to ease the burden on local school districts in the long run. We urge you to vote to override the Governor's veto of these items:

Governor Kasich vetoed the legislature's provisions for short and long-term relief for TPP districts.

- The limiting of the loss of TPP payments in the coming biennium to 3 ½ % of a district's total resources, and the change to the phase-down rate for districts still receiving TPP replacement payments beginning in FY 2020 would assist the districts that have always been the most reliant on TPP revenues. Contrary to the rationale cited in the Governor's veto message, these districts do not have the ability to easily overcome the loss of TPP payments locally. The state funding formula has not increased enough to make up the loss, and local, residential taxpayers are already paying more than their fair share in many cases. Further, the affected districts range in local wealth from below the statewide average to above – no consistent characteristic describes these districts.

Governor Kasich vetoed the elimination of the RESA requirements from law.

- The elimination of the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) program has been sought by the members of our three organizations for several years. Since the inception of the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES), educators and administrators alike have complained about the redundancy caused by the layering of the two programs. The removal of the RESA requirement does not preclude school districts, in cooperation

with teaching staff, from maintaining a career induction program, one that meets the needs locally. This should be removed from law as a state-mandated program.

Governor Kasich vetoed the recalculation of segmented school facilities projects.

- The legislature included a new provision for districts that are participating in the state's school facilities program by segmenting the projects over time. The provision allows the recalculation of the state share of the cost for each new segment in the future. We ask that you vote to restore this provision.


Governor Kasich vetoed the option for districts to choose paper and pencil tests.

- Because it has been difficult for some districts to transition to the mandate that all state tests be administered electronically, the legislature properly included a provision in HB 49 that would allow districts to choose whether or not to utilize online or paper and pencil tests. We support this flexibility for districts. We urge you to restore this provision.

With the veto of these provisions, school districts will continue to be burdened with unnecessary mandates and revenue losses out into the future. We urge you to take a strong stand on these four issues and allow the Ohio Senate to vote to override Governor Kasich's vetoes. We stand ready to support you in preserving the intent of the Ohio General Assembly's education provisions in these areas.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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C: Ohio Senate