

# Support for Executive Budget Proposal

INVESTING in Ohio's  
**FUTURE**

## “ **The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO)**

CCAO is thrilled to see Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted continue their steadfast support of county government in today's state budget rollout. In the midst of combatting a global pandemic while simultaneously investing in our state's future, the DeWine-Husted Administration was able to strongly support CCAO's request for indigent defense reimbursement. Ohio's counties are grateful for Gov. DeWine's steadfast commitment and support of county government.

Indigent defense reimbursement is CCAO's primary legislative priority this budget cycle. The costs of funding this mandated service place considerable strain on county general fund budgets. The governor's proposal to fund indigent defense reimbursement to counties continues the DeWine-Husted Administration's strong leadership on this issue. From day one, the DeWine-Husted Administration has made counties a true partner. Today's budget proposal marks a critical step in building a strong partnership for stronger counties and a stronger Ohio.

– *Tim Bubb, President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO)*

## “ **NFIB**

After a year where Ohio entrepreneurs fought their way through severe economic difficulties, the state's small business owners sincerely appreciate the carefully crafted proposed two-year state operating budget from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted. Their proposed state budget is an extremely responsible one for businesses who are working every day to recover from the pandemic.

By offering a balanced budget that seeks no additional tax hikes on small business owners, that will incur no deficit spending, and is balanced on a reasonably forecasted general revenue stream, Governor DeWine has shown the pathway for an economic recovery that does not place additional financial burdens on small businesses during these unprecedented times.

NFIB would like to also acknowledge the Investing In Ohio initiative with almost half a billion dollars being set aside for predominately small business relief in the proposed DeWine/Husted operating budget. With many Ohio small business owners experiencing hits to their revenue of fifty percent or more over this past year, they are extremely thankful that the DeWine Administration recognizes that many of Ohio's smallest of businesses need additional financial help to survive.

– *Roger Geiger, Executive Director, NFIB*

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## Ohio Business Roundtable

I applaud Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, and their hardworking teams on the announcement of this proposed biennial budget. Our mission at OBRT is to advocate for pro-growth policies to improve Ohio's economic climate, and this proposed budget advances that goal. This budget would make key strategic investments in Ohio's economy and workforce, including \$70 million for workforce development programs and \$450 million in investments in key infrastructure projects such as expanding access to broadband. In addition, this budget calls for a sophisticated marketing campaign aimed at promoting Ohio's excellent career opportunities, our top-class colleges and universities, and our affordable quality of life.

Equally important in this budget proposal is the strong emphasis against any tax increases. Across the country, many Governors and state legislatures are proposing an increase in taxes on businesses and their workforces. Governor DeWine should be applauded for making the prudent and difficult choices early on in the pandemic, which allows Ohioans to benefit from these strategic investments without seeing an increase in their taxes.

The Ohio Business Roundtable thanks Governor DeWine for his leadership in this budget proposal and urges the Ohio legislature to follow through on these important investments in our state without raising taxes.

*– Pat Tiberi President & CEO Ohio Business Roundtable*



## Ohio Chamber of Commerce

While Ohio's economy is showing signs of recovery and vaccines offer hope, businesses – like all Ohioans – continue to face great uncertainty. We need an aggressive, pro-growth budget focused on economic recovery, and I am deeply appreciative that is what Gov. DeWine's budget proposal outlined today delivers.

Most importantly, the new 'Investing in Ohio Initiative' provides additional, needed resources to the industries that continue to really struggle, like our bars and restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues. It invests in the types of things – local economic development site readiness and high-speed broadband access, for example – that create jobs. It ensures that more Ohioans have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials. Also, by not proposing major tax changes or increases, it maintains consistency and predictability in the tax code.

The governor should be applauded for crafting a budget proposal that positions our state's economy for a strong rebound once the coronavirus threat passes.

*– Andrew E. Doehrel, President & CEO, Ohio Chamber of Commerce*



## The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants greatly appreciates the tremendous fiscal restraint shown by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted with their Executive Budget proposal. At a time when some could attempt to justify revenue enhancements as necessary to prop up state government, they chose to instead capitalize on savings recognized by previous budgetary adjustments.

We applaud the Governor for allocating \$70 million for Ohio's workforce through the support of industry recognized credentials, in addition to the \$460 million to support small businesses that continue to encounter challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. We look forward to taking a deeper dive into the Executive Budget with members of the House and Senate.

*– Gordon Gough, President & CEO,  
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants*

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## Ohio Association of Community College

Thanks to Governor DeWine's leadership, Ohio continues to fight through this pandemic and we are confident that our state will recover to emerge from this crisis even stronger. The DeWine-Husted Administration has consistently set themselves apart in their understanding of the way an educated and skilled workforce helps drive the success of Ohio's employees, workers and families.

During these challenging times, we understand that difficult decisions need to be made; but as the saying goes, with crisis comes great opportunity. Through the investing in Ohio initiate the Administration's strategic approach to better linking a skilled workforce and economic development comes through loud and clear. Ohio's community colleges look forward to advancing these funding and policy priorities to help strengthen our state and improve opportunities for every working Ohioans

*— Jack Hershey, Ohio Association of Community College (OACC)*

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## Groundwork Ohio

We applaud Governor DeWine on his continued support for Ohio's pregnant moms and youngest children in the executive budget proposal released today. Increasing eligibility for our publicly funded child care system from 130% to 138% of the federal poverty level is an important first step to ensuring all families can get back to work and our youngest children are prepared for school and beyond.

*— Shannon Jones, Executive Director, Groundwork Ohio*

## Ohio Association of Community Health Centers

In its sixth year, the Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative (OPCWI) continues to be a pipeline in recruiting and retaining the next generation of primary care providers. With the support of the Governor, Ohio's Community Health Centers can continue teaching, inspiring and putting to work our next generation of primary care providers by exposing students to rich clinical experiences working with a diverse, underserved population with varied and sometimes complex healthcare needs in our network of modernized primary care settings.

We commend the Governor for his leadership and planning for Ohio's future by investing in the health and well-being of all Ohioans. Through preserved Medicaid eligibility, increasing funding for Student Wellness and Success initiatives supports to combat infant and maternal mortality and addressing social determinants of health, this budget continues to steer Ohio on the right path for success.

The Governor's proposed budget aligns with the mission of Ohio's Community Health Centers to provide access to comprehensive, quality and affordable health care to all Ohioans regardless of their insurance status. With so many health centers on the frontlines, helping to fight the pandemic, improving infant and maternal mortality and addressing health equity, we look forward to partnering with Governor DeWine and his Administration to improve the total health of Ohio.

*— Randy Runyon, President & CEO,  
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC)*

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## **Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association**

The effort to deliver support to Ohio's employers and businesses most negatively impacted by COVID-19 will provide a bridge to recovery later this year and will help preserve jobs and critical economic infrastructure in our state.

Ohio's hotel and lodging industry has been negatively impacted to a truly historic level. At the height of pandemic closures, 70 percent of our industry's workforce was displaced. Only a portion of those jobs have returned. 'Investing in Ohio' is an investment in these employees' future.

*– Joe Savarise, Executive Director,  
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association*

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## **The Ohio Manufacturers' Association**

The OMA applauds the administration's responsible, focused, and balanced budget. While OMA staff will need to analyze all the details of the plan and its impact on Ohio's manufacturers, the budget's overall focus on continuing Ohio's economic recovery strikes the right chord. We are encouraged to see strong investment in upskilling Ohio's workforce, which is the foundation of our economic future.

The OMA salutes the DeWine-Husted administration for its leadership during this once-in-a-century pandemic, while remaining focused on Ohio's competitiveness.

*– Ryan Augsburg, President, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association*

## **Ohio Mayors Alliance**

We appreciate Governor DeWine's ongoing commitment to partnering with Ohio's local communities to build a stronger Ohio. This budget is a reflection of that commitment. By investing in local infrastructure, economic development, and law enforcement support, the administration is making local economic recovery key to the economic recovery of the state. We look forward to working with the DeWine administration and the General Assembly as the budget moves through the legislative process.

*– Keary McCarthy, Executive Director, Ohio Mayors Alliance*

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## **Ohio Municipal League**

We thank Governor DeWine for making an investment in Ohio's local governments a priority in the administration's budget proposal. By funding local infrastructure projects and broadband expansion, the state will be making critical investments in Ohio's economic recovery. The League looks forward to working with Governor DeWine and the General Assembly as the budget works through the legislative process.

*– Mark Schwieterman, League Board President and  
Kettering City Manager, Ohio Municipal League*

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## “ Ohio Restaurant Association

The Ohio Restaurant Association continues to appreciate the strong and steady leadership of Governor DeWine, Lieutenant Governor Husted, the Ohio General Assembly, and the entire Administration during this ongoing public health and economic crisis.

Today's announcement of the Investing in Ohio's Future budget reflects a strong commitment by Ohio's leaders to aggressively yet responsibly invest in Ohio's comeback. The Governor's leadership throughout this crisis has put Ohio in a position to make these decisions and investments that will help Ohio and Ohio's communities emerge from this crisis strong and continue to be an amazing place to work, live and raise a family.

Ohio's hospitality community appreciates that today's announcement reflects the reality of the devastation the pandemic has had on hospitality businesses and all of those who work in hospitality. The coming investment will help Ohio's hospitality and entertainment businesses survive this crisis, come back strong to help grow Ohio's economy, and continue to contribute to the vibrancy of Ohio's communities.

Ohio's restaurants remain committed to helping feed Ohioans, employ Ohioans, and be there to help revive our economy and our communities when we emerge together on the other side of this crisis. The Ohio Restaurant Association is committed to continuing our work with Ohio's leaders to help every Ohio restaurant succeed now and into the future.

– John Barker, President and CEO,  
Ohio Restaurant Association

## “ Ohio Travel Association

Governor DeWine and his team appropriately titled the Executive Budget initiative “Investing in Ohio,” and the Ohio Travel Association applauds this true investment in the future of the state. With a 22% unemployment rate and a loss of more than \$12.8 billion in revenues due to the pandemic, Ohio's travel and hospitality businesses are in trouble. They're also a major road to economic recovery. When people travel, whether it's a day-trip to a museum or an overnight to enjoy a live performance, they spend money that supports businesses and generates tax revenues. To help keep these businesses intact so they'll be able to fuel this economic activity later, the Governor has wisely provided much-needed relief to save jobs. At the same time, Ohio can accelerate recovery and get more Ohioans back to work through stimulating travel with increased promotions. It is imperative that this two-prong approach occurs if we are to experience an overall economic recovery in Ohio. The losses are too deep and too broad for the economy to recover fully without recovery of the businesses dependent on travel spending.

– Melinda Huntley, Executive Director,  
Ohio Travel Association

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## **Public Children Services Association of Ohio**

The Governor's budget demonstrates Mike DeWine's deep commitment to Ohio children and families. With implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act in October and a brand-new Kinship Support Program rolling out, 2021 will be a pivotal year for county children services agencies. The Governor maintained the bulk of the unprecedented increases made two years ago. In challenging budget years, we sometimes see reductions in county allocations, but the Governor kept his word to continue moving forward his vision for stabilizing the children services system and working toward transformation.

Family First – the most dramatic change to federal child welfare financing in decades – will make it possible to serve more families in home, without taking children into foster care, and will prioritize placing those children who do come into care in family settings rather than in institutions. To maximize these opportunities, Ohio will need to invest in an array of evidence-based prevention services across the state and offset rising placement costs for counties. The Governor's budget is a remarkable first step, and we look forward to working with the General Assembly to improve outcomes for children and families.

PCSAO appreciates the Governor's ongoing leadership for safe children and stable families.

*– Angela Sausser, Executive Director,  
Public Children Services Association of Ohio*