



June 12, 2020

Speaker Larry Householder
Ohio House of Representatives
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Senate President Larry Obhoff
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Minority Leader Emilia Sykes
Ohio House of Representatives
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

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Secretary-Treasurer

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CAROL FORD
Ohio Private Sector
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Ohio Public Sector
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JUDY MALDONADO
Registered Nurse
Vice President

SCHERHERA SHEARER
School District & Local
Government Vice President

VIKKI TULLY
West Virginia
Vice President

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
DISTRICT 1199 WV/KY/OH
CTW, CLC

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Leaders of the Ohio General Assembly,

On behalf of the nearly 30,000 workers represented by SEIU District 1199, I am writing you today to ask for shared sacrifice by members of the General Assembly as you work with Governor DeWine to address the budget shortfalls as a result of COVID-19.

As you know, members of the General Assembly approved a bipartisan proposal to increase their pay by 4 percent in 2020, 3 percent in 2021 and 1.75 percent each year. The increases set from 2022 to 2028 would increase your base salaries from \$60,584 to \$73,167 by 2028. For Ohioans making \$8.55 per hour on minimum wage or the average Ohioan making \$60,000 annually, that is out of touch with the economic realities of today.

We are respectfully requesting immediate action by the Ohio General Assembly to pass a resolution to freeze all salaries of members of this body to show you are willing to share in the sacrifice being asked of the people of our State. Public and private sector employees across Ohio are being asked to give up wages, reduce benefits, work without pay, and contribute more for their healthcare.

In order to preserve the quality public services provided by the hard-working women and men who work for the State of Ohio, we implore you to give authorization to the Governor to use the \$2,691,554,191 currently in the Ohio's Budget Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) to close the gap in our State Budget and join our call for him to do so without delay.

Times of national emergency require us all to move beyond business as usual and now is the time that we ask Ohio's largest, wealthiest, and most powerful corporations and industries to invest in Ohio's future by paying their fair share. It is incumbent upon you to consider raising additional revenue through taxes of the wealthiest people and most profitable businesses in our State and close unnecessary, costly tax loopholes that benefit the few at the cost of the rest of us.

We are calling on you to put politics and ideology aside and do what is the best interest of the people of the Great State of Ohio. This is not the time to make drastic, recessive cuts to the State Budget. To make life better for working people we need to invest in education, create better paying jobs, and make healthcare more affordable for people struggling to make ends meet.

Sincerely,

Becky Williams, President

cc: All members of the Ohio General Assembly
All State of Ohio members of SEIU District 1199