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The Service Employees
International Union
District 1199 WV/KY/OH
Change to Win, CLC
www.seiu1199.org

February 28, 2017

Dear Chairwoman Anielski and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

As one of Ohio's Unions proudly representing employees across eighteen different state agencies, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) District 1199 is deeply concerned about several provisions included in House Bill 51 and the lack of thorough consideration of the consequences this legislation could have not only on State employees but the quality and availability of services many Ohio citizens depend on.

The threat of expiration and elimination of not only state departments, but potentially thousands of living wage jobs does not bode well for the workers who have the experience and skills necessary to execute their duties in an efficient manner. This threat also puts incredible stress on workers' families who depend on a stable income.

Reasonable measures to increase efficiency and eliminate wasteful state spending are acceptable up to the point where employees are faced with unreasonable workload demands and the delivery and availability of vital state services like Medicaid, unemployment compensation benefits and public safety suffer. Many services and programs funded by the federal government may also be at risk considering the requirement that these funds pass through and are distributed by the appropriate state department.

We support efforts to create a state government that is adjusting to respond to its citizens and enabling Ohioans to build a better life for themselves and their families. However, if passed, we believe HB 51 would not accomplish those goals and instead be a destabilizing force in state government and put workers and their families in jeopardy.

For these reasons, SEIU District 1199 opposes HB 51 and urges the committee to withhold action on the bill until a more thorough examination of its ramifications can be conducted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Williams".

Becky Williams, President
SEIU 1199 WV/KY/OH

