



PRESS RELEASE

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Governor touts jobs while pink-slipping hundreds of state workers

WESTERVILLE – While touting state government’s greatest “moral purpose” as creating Ohio jobs, hundreds of state employees are at risk of losing theirs, said leaders of the largest state employees union in response to Gov. John Kasich’s State of the State remarks.

“Governor Kasich’s budget makes several proposals to eliminate, consolidate and privatize jobs, ratcheting down wages and benefits for the middle class,” said President of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, Christopher A. Mabe. “I think the Governor forgets that our jobs as Correction Officers, Highway Workers, Employment Counselors, Direct Care Workers are jobs, too,” said Mabe.

“The governor’s budget could eliminate hundreds of middle-class jobs, many of which are located in rural and small communities outside of the Columbus belt-way,” said Mabe. Potentially on the chopping block are jobs in food service in Ohio’s prisons and youth facilities; customer service jobs in Job and Family Services; Travel Counselor positions in state rest areas; Central Warehouse employees that provide state facilities with goods; as well as numerous employees who care for the most severely developmentally disabled in the state’s Developmental Centers.

“These job losses and service cuts are on top of the cuts made two years ago that reduced the number of employees in the Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction and Dept. of Youth Services, Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities and ODOT,” said OCSEA Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Stewart. “These state employees provide a state service, like caring for our most vulnerable and plowing our roads. When these jobs get cut, so too goes that vital program or service. And, all too often, those cuts have dangerous consequences.”

“The Governor boasts that his administration has cut more state workers than anyone in 30 years. I don’t think eliminating a family’s source of income or a middle class job is something to be proud of. Nor should this be a tale of two workers, one public and one private. Our jobs are jobs, too,” said Mabe.

“We agree with the Governor that the vitriol and attacks are counterproductive and that we need to work together. But we also know that employees represented by our organization were denied meaningful input about this budget and other workplace initiatives,” said Stewart. “He needs to practice what he preaches.”

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OCSEA represents approximately 33,000 state employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions. For more information, contact Sally Meckling, 614-865-2602 or 614-404-3881 (cell).