



PRESS RELEASE

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Labor and education groups speak out against Kasich budget *Advocates say Governor Kasich's budget shortchanges middle class Ohioans*

COLUMBUS – Ohio labor and education advocates slammed Governor Kasich for signing a state budget that lavishes tax breaks on and favors the wealthy at the expense of middle class Ohioans.

Christopher Mabe, President of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, said “We can’t afford a tax cut that allows millionaires to walk away with the store while the middle class is left holding the bag. We can’t afford a budget that pulls the plug on working families so millionaires can receive huge government contracts and pay their employees minimum wage. We need to call this budget what it is: The Great Ohio Budget Robbery.”

While Governor Kasich has touted a tax cut for most Ohioans, Mabe said that the budget is fiscally unsound and leaves the middle class behind. “This budget gives a \$6,000 tax cut to Ohio’s millionaires and a 50 percent tax cut to Kasich’s business buddies while the rest of us could be seeing major property tax increases. In fact, the majority of OCSEA members will see almost no tax break.”

Education advocates are also up in arms over the budget transferring record amounts of money to for-profit charter schools. Sam Reynolds, Superintendent of Manchester Local Schools in Summit County, is concerned that this diversion of resources to charters — many of which perform under the level of public schools — is draining our public education system. Reynolds said, “Rather than properly supporting highly successful districts like Manchester, the governor and legislature have decided to put more money into charter schools, 70% of which will get F’s on the new report card. Manchester lost \$225,059 to charter schools last year that performed worse than Manchester, yet received more than double the state aid.”

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OCSEA represents 30,000 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).