



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Largest state employee union gives thumbs up to new 3-year contract

*Westerville* – Members of OCSEA, the largest state employees union, have ratified a Tentative Agreement with the State of Ohio by a large margin, with approximately 83 percent of its members in favor of the package and 17 percent opposed.

The Tentative Agreement includes a 7.5 percent general wage increase for the life of the 3-year contract, the maintenance of a 15/85 premium health care split, an increase in the dental and vision fund and an increase in the union's education trust. Under the agreement, OCSEA bargaining unit members will receive a 2.5 percent general wage increase in July each of the three years of the contract as well as a \$750 signing bonus on August 1, 2015.

“Neither side got everything they wanted, but we believe it’s a fair contract,” said OCSEA President Christopher Mabe.

OCSEA members have gone without a general wage increase for six years and took Cost Savings Days (also known as furloughs) resulting in pay cuts for two of those years.

Nationally, the trend has been to shift more and more health care costs to employees, but the union was able to hold the line on much of health care, with some minor increases in the third year in specialty co-pays and deductibles.

“The team did a good job of ensuring wage gains weren’t lost by takeaways in other areas of the contract like in health care,” said Mabe. “I think we struck a good balance,” he said.

OCSEA is the first of five state employee unions to bargain a new contract.

OCSEA represents approximately 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).*