



For immediate release

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## **Union leaders: Proposed bill change in right direction, but long way to go**

WESTERVILLE – Leaders of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association have just learned that proposed changes to a bill that would eliminate the bargaining rights of state employees would reinstate their right to negotiate wages, but would give them no ability to bargain any other benefits or terms and conditions of employment.

“While we are encouraged that we are back in the bill for the purposes of bargaining wages, our rights are still severely limited and there is no process that would bring management to the middle in any negotiations,” said OCSEA Pres. Eddie L. Parks.

“We still have no way to negotiate some very basic things like discrimination based on political contributions, a 40-hour work week, health and safety provisions or even ensuring access to bathroom facilities or clean drinking water for some employees,” said Parks.

“The law would also prevent us from securing, for example, \$100 million in savings for health care, as we did under our current agreement,” said Parks.

“We believe this is moving in the right direction, but there is still a very long way to go in restoring state employees’ rights that will keep the state moving forward.”

*OCSEA represents approximately 34,000 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).*