



## Members of Ohio's 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

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July 29, 2020

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senator

The Honorable Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

The Honorable David Joyce  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

The Honorable Anthony Gonzales  
Member of Congress

Dear Lawmakers,

As Members of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Ohio General Assembly serving residents of Cuyahoga County, our top priority is protecting the health and well-being of our constituents. To that end, thank you for your efforts to bring federal resources swiftly to bear against the COVID-19 pandemic. This is most evident in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* which has offered critical support to local governments and their constituents during this time.

Cuyahoga County is home to 58 municipalities and townships, each of which has continued to provide basic services and expend resources in response to the pandemic. State and local governments alike are facing significant revenue declines, particularly from shortfalls in sales taxes as many businesses limit or reduce their operations. At the same time, expenses have increased in order to ensure a continuity of services and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Ohio's economy has been reeling in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. In the first economic quarter, Ohio dealt with the eighth largest decline in its real GDP on record dating back to 1947. This financial crisis will only worsen for working families and the many local governments that serve them directly across Cuyahoga County.

As you know, local governments are required to operate with balanced budgets and cannot rely on deficit spending to overcome this economic challenge. As a result, without the flexibility to use federal resources to address lost revenue related to the pandemic, essential public service workers and the services they provide our mutual constituents are at significant risk.

When considering additional relief or revising language in the *CARES Act*, we urge you to give local governments the flexibility to use relief funds broadly, and particularly to authorize that those funds may be used to make up for lost revenue. Thank you for your hard work and support during the many challenges posed by this simultaneous public health and economic crisis.

Sincerely,



Nickie J. Antonio  
State Senator  
23<sup>rd</sup> District



Janine Boyd  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> District



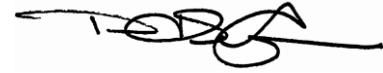
Juanita O. Brent  
State Representative  
12<sup>th</sup> District



Jeffrey A. Crossman  
State Representative  
15<sup>th</sup> District



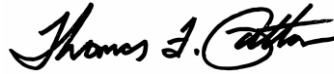
Matt Dolan  
State Senator  
24<sup>th</sup> District



Dave Greenspan  
State Representative  
16<sup>th</sup> District



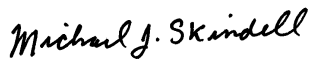
Stephanie D. Howse  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> District



Thomas F. Patton  
State Representative  
7<sup>th</sup> District



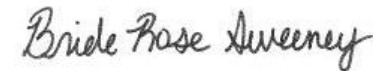
Philip M. Robinson, Jr.  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> District



Michael J. Skindell  
State Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> District



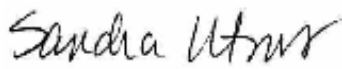
Kent Smith  
State Representative  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Bride Rose Sweeney  
State Representative  
14<sup>th</sup> District



Terrence Upchurch  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> District



Sandra Williams  
Sen. Assistant Minority Whip  
21<sup>st</sup> District



Kenny Yuko  
Senate Minority Leader  
25<sup>th</sup> District

