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THE OHIO 8 COALITION STATEMENTS ON HOUSE SUBSTITUTE BILL

Statements on key State Operating Budget issues can be found below and attributed to the person listed in each quote. More detail on each of these policies is included in the Coalition's upcoming testimony before Ohio House Finance Committee which can be found [here](#).

- 1. General:** *"The Ohio House substitute bill lacks the breadth and depth of solutions and critical accountability measures that the Ohio 8 Coalition and other K-12 advocates have offered and testified to during Ohio House budget deliberations."* **said Dr. Romules Durant, Ohio 8 Co-Chair and Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools.** *"On behalf of thousands of students, families, teachers, administrators, and community members throughout Ohio, issues such as voucher expansion, transportation, and standards for literacy coaches must receive greater attention during Omnibus deliberations."*
- 2. Transportation:** *"While the flexibility to utilize 9 passenger vans and the spirit of changes on the 30-minute rule is appreciated, the Ohio 8 Coalition provided a comprehensive set of recommendations to help holistically address ongoing transportation challenges for all students regardless of where they are educated"* **said Dr. Romules Durant, Ohio 8 Co-Chair and Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools.** *"These include simple fixes like home school districts determining bell schedules; freezing penalties until due process is completed; and aligning terms like calamity days and impractical transportation to fit present day reality. Ohio can no longer nibble at the edges of solutions. The answers exist, are reasonable, and must be implemented."*
- 3. Vouchers:** *"Ohio continues its failed experiment of school vouchers by expanding eligibility to an historical high of 450% of the FPL. This would allow more than 80% of school age children to qualify for a program that is unproven, unaccountable, duplicates multiple administrative and operational systems, and uses tax dollars to supplant private tuition obligations."* **said Paul Palomba, Ohio 8 Co-Chair and President of the Canton Professional Educators Association.** *"[Arizona has seen a similar experiment fail](#). Ohio should learn from this failure and avoid not only further expansion but institute accountability measures for the use of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars."*
- 4. Science of Literacy:** *"The Ohio 8 applauds the recommended use of evidenced based literacy instruction and educator professional development and funding to support literacy coaches."* **said Paul Palomba, Ohio 8 Co-Chair and President of the Canton Professional Educators Association.** *"But literacy coaches deployed by ODE attached to this policy must meet the highest standards, including proven track record of success. Our students and educators deserve nothing less."*

[The Ohio 8 Coalition](#) is a strategic alliance composed of the superintendents and teacher union presidents from Ohio's eight urban school districts – Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown. The Ohio 8 Coalition's mission is to work with policy makers to improve academic performance, increase graduation rates and close the achievement gap for urban children throughout Ohio. The Coalition carries out its mission by working closely with legislators, educators, parents, labor, and community officials. The Coalition brings a shared administrator-teacher voice to help shape state education policy

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