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K-12 VETOES MUST BE PROTECTED OR LOCAL SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES WILL SUFFER

Students, families, and educators deserve better than so-called 'reform' that does nothing but strip away local control, undermine community authority, and disenfranchise Ohio taxpayers

Columbus, OH – The Ohio 8 Coalition, a strategic alliance composed of the superintendents and teacher union presidents from Ohio's urban school districts – Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Lorain, Toledo, and Youngstown – is calling on the Ohio General Assembly to preserve eight (8) of the Governor's K-12 related vetoes within House Bill 96, as outlined below. These provisions of the bill sidestep addressing the fundamental and pressing challenges of property tax reform, placing the burden on local school districts and undermining student success.

FOLLOWING ARE THE VETOED PROVISIONS THAT MUST NOT BE OVER-RIDDEN

1. Establishes a 40% cap on school carryover balances (item 63);
2. Allows county budget commissions to control taxes on how non-debt levies are utilized (item 55);
3. Eliminates replacement levies, fixed-sum emergency levies, substitute emergency levies, and combined school district income tax and fixed-sum property tax levies (item 66);
4. Includes emergency, substitute, incremental growth, conversion, and combined school district income tax and property tax levies into the calculation of the 20-mill floor (item 65);
5. Prohibits school districts from paying for the employee share of STRS or SERS contributions for superintendents, treasurers, and principals (item 51);
6. a provision that would have required school board candidates to have a political affiliation on the ballot for elections (item 53); and
7. a provision that would have created an education savings account program for non-chartered nonpublic schools (item 27)
8. Restrictions on public library displays related to sexual orientation and gender (item 67)

"The core of traditional public-school districts, where over 90% of Ohio's parents choose to send their children, will cease to exist if these vetoes are not preserved. The provisions that are being considered for a veto override will strip schools, cities, counties, and communities of the funding they have already dedicated to local services, including public dollars dedicated by our own residents for public education," said Jeff Talbert, Ohio 8 Coalition Co-Chair and Superintendent of Canton City Schools. "Communities

around the State continue to maintain their commitment to fund schools. The fundamental problem is that the Legislature refuses to fulfill their portion of that commitment by providing real tax reform. This will only mean more frequent levies to compensate for a lack of long-term solutions. To suggest this is real tax reform is like trying to sell me a field of green grass knowing it's just old worn out astroturf. It's fake. It's not long lasting. It's insulting and our communities deserve better."

Exacerbating the property tax issue are the continued barrage of burdensome mandates, the majority of which emerged at the last minute without comprehensive public hearings or integrating feedback from those who do the work every day at the local level.

"Many of our veto requests address the foundation of increasingly punitive policies that dictate how we transport students, use our buildings, support our educators, and divert over a billion dollars to unaccountable charter and non-public schools," said Pat Shipe, Co-Chair of The Ohio 8 Coalition and President of the Akron Education Association. "Ohio taxpayers need to understand that real property tax reform will begin only when legislators stop forcing citizens to fund two parallel school systems and instead commit to fairly and fully funding the public schools that serve over 90% of Ohio's children. Until that time, these harmful policies make it harder to recruit and retain high-quality educators and staff, restrict our ability to meet the needs of our local communities and school boards, and compromise our capacity to transport students safely and efficiently. Taken together, these actions are pushing our public education system to the breaking point. It's unconscionable, and our local communities must not stand for it any longer."

The Ohio 8 Coalition Leadership Team

Pat Shipe, President, Akron Educator's Association, Ohio 8 Co-Chair

Jeff Talbert, Superintendent, Canton City Schools, Ohio 8 Co-Chair

Dr. Mary Outley, Superintendent, Akron Public Schools

Dr. Angela Chapman, Superintendent, Columbus City Schools

Jon Coneglio, President, Columbus Education Association

Kevin Dalton, President, Toledo Federation of Teachers

Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools

Julie Sellers, President, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

Shauna Murphy, Superintendent, Cincinnati Public Schools

Dr. David Lawrence, Superintendent, Dayton Public Schools

Neil Mahoney, President, Dayton Education Association

Paul Palomba, President, Canton Professional Educators Association

Dr. Jeffrey Graham, Superintendent, Lorain City Schools

Julie Garcia, President, Lorain Education Association

Dr. Warren Morgan, Superintendent, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Shari Obrenski, President, Cleveland Teachers Union

Jeremy Batchelor, Superintendent, Youngstown City Schools

Jane Haggerty, President, Youngstown Education Association

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