

Dear Representative/Senator:

I am the (*your role*) of (*your organization*). We (*talk about your mission/services/clients served, etc.*). In the past two years we have seen dramatic funding reductions in many areas that directly impact those we work with such as (*specific reductions in your area of work*). At the same time, we have seen increasing need for our services.

We understand how difficult this budget is, but our response cannot be to cut services for Ohio's most vulnerable families and children. During difficult economic times, it is even more important to focus resources on local services that keep our workforce strong and help our families hang on. In order to avoid additional cuts and restore funds to services desperately needed by Ohio's families, we ask that you increase revenues to help meet these needs. Ohio's budget cannot be balanced only by cuts. We need to increase state revenues to provide necessary funding for such critical areas as health, education, safety and social services.

With the economic downturn, people in our communities need more help now than ever before. Families struggling to put food on the table rely on the state to help provide basic needs and services. Yet the proposed state budget for 2010-2011 leaves so many people still in need of help. The current budget does not include badly needed programs like: (*pick any or all*)

- \$62 million to protect abused and neglected children and our frail elderly
- \$17 million to provide basic food assistance
- \$10 million for community based services for our elderly
- \$30 million for people with mental illness
- \$10 million for Kinship Care services
- \$22 million for child care for low-income families
- \$21 million for Help Me Grow
- \$10 million for community health care
- \$11 million to stop the erosion of important local services as a result of the elimination of the Tangible Personal Property Tax
- \$2.5 million for Independent Living Services
- \$130 million for delivery of basic human services at the county level including food stamps, cash assistance, job readiness and job training and health care

Please make revenue increases part of the solution to this fiscal crisis. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,