

RESOLUTION

Challenging Ohio's Governor and General Assembly to enact a state budget that protects Ohio's libraries, health and social programs.

WHEREAS, the proposed budget as passed by both the Ohio House and Senate, facing a devastating deficit, included dramatic reductions statewide to both libraries and health and human services before an additional \$3.2 billion revenue deficit was identified.

WHEREAS, the economic crisis in Ohio has had a dramatic impact on those least able to absorb further losses, the poor, the unemployed, the underemployed, the uninsured.

WHEREAS, benefit caseloads are dramatically increasing in all areas of human services as a result of increasing unemployment and poverty.

WHEREAS, additional devastating cuts to social programs are being proposed as a way to ameliorate the \$3.2 billion budget hole while tax cuts, loopholes and funding increases are benefiting other areas of state government.

WHEREAS, Child, Adult Protective & Safety Net Services, (TANF to Title XX replacement) from \$50 M/year to \$35 M/year - an estimated loss of these funds could result in a loss of 1,500 child protection workers, out of an 8,000 person workforce.

WHEREAS, Ohio's Child Protection Allocation would be cut \$28 Million over the Biennium, Adoption Assistance cut \$38 Million over the Biennium – Benefit Caseload administration cut \$40 million over the biennium, Child Support Enforcement Match cut \$10 million over Biennium, Mental Health community & hospital services cut \$69 million over the biennium, Child Mental Health cut \$2.8 Million over the biennium.

WHEREAS, Food Bank funds are eliminated in the budget proposal, Child Care match funds are cut, resulting in the loss of fed child care funds, and the elimination of early childhood care and education.

WHEREAS, Ohio's public libraries provide vital services to Ohio citizens including literacy, career counseling, computer training, Internet access, financial literacy and health information in addition to the provision of traditional library services.

WHEREAS, Ohio families and individuals have flocked to public libraries in even greater numbers recently to access critical services as they grapple with the effects of the economic slowdown.

WHEREAS, Ohio public libraries have already seen their state revenue decline by 20 percent since the beginning of 2009.

WHEREAS, the budget cuts announced last week by Governor Strickland include an additional \$200 million reduction in the Public Library Fund over the next two years.

WHEREAS, the combination of the latest announced cuts and the cuts already in place will result in a fifty percent reduction in state funding for Ohio's public libraries.

WHEREAS, if enacted, these draconian cuts would cause the award-winning Cuyahoga County Public Library to absorb an \$18 million cut over the next two years that would decimate library services across the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio calls upon the Governor and Ohio General Assembly to enact a state budget that protects Ohio's libraries, health and social programs by balancing these critically needed spending programs by:

- 1) Enabling revenue generating slot machines**
- 2) Repeal tax cuts for wealthy Ohioans**
- 3) Means-testing the homestead exemption for a reasonable period**
- 4) Enabling "reasonable" gaming initiatives**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Rick Werner, Deputy County Administrator/Health & Human Services and Madeline Brookshire, Director, Marketing, Cuyahoga County Public Library.

On Motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Dimora, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Jones, Dimora, Hagan.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board**

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