

July 9, 2009

Governor Ted Strickland
Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street-30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor Strickland:

On June 6, 2009 the Ohio Psychological Association Board of Directors voted to endorse the statement of the Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future urging Ohio's elected leaders to consider revenue enhancement measures in addition to the previously made budget cuts.

Our Association is also active in the Coalition For Healthy Communities and shares the concerns of this Coalition that has called on you, members of the Ohio House, and members of the Ohio Senate to do the right thing and find the resources needed to fund the services needed for individuals with mental illness and alcohol and drug addiction. This vulnerable population is seriously threatened by the possibility of deeper cuts in the budgets for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. It is time to look at the revenue options.

Psychologists know the need for services that prevent, assess, and treat mental illnesses. In addition they know that accessible early intervention and health care and strong public schools contribute to psychologically healthy Ohioans who are ready to learn and work.

Psychologists in the state prisons, in community mental health system, in alcohol and drug treatment programs and research, in hospitals and private practices are serving Ohioans who now more than ever, need our assistance. We urge you to take the long view and keep Ohio's citizenry healthy as we weather this terrible economic time. Otherwise, we stand to lose an entire group of children and adults who will not be prepared mentally or physically to learn and work in a new Ohio.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Ranney MPA
Executive Director

July 9, 2009

State Representative Armond Budish
Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Speaker Budish:

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Sincerely,

Michael O. Ranney MPA
Executive Director

July 9, 2009

State Senator Bill Harris
President
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
One Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senate President Harris:

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