



ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Your voice is powerful and important – especially in our advocacy of children and youth across Ohio. Ohio’s biennial budget process is coming to an end in just a couple weeks and this is a final push to make sure that your concerns for children are heard.

To maximize your impact, we ask that you send your letters, emails, and phone calls by June 18, 2021.

This toolkit has three sections, please use any section and thank you for your advocacy!

- 1. Template Letter**
- 2. Template Email**
- 3. Phone Call Script**

Contact Information

	Address	Email	Phone Number
House			
Rep. Mike Cupp (R-) House Speaker	77 S. High St., 13 th Floor Columbus, OH 43210	rep04@ohiohouse.gov	(614) 466-9624
Rep. Scott Oleslager (R-North Canton), Chair, Budget Committee	77 S. High St., 13 th Floor Columbus, OH 43210	rep48@ohiohouse.gov	(614) 752-2438
Rep. Phil Plummer (R-Dayton), Vice Chair, Budget Committee	77 S. High St., 13 th Floor Columbus, OH 43210	rep40@ohiohouse.gov	(614) 644-8051
Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin), House Health Committee	77 S. High St., 13 th Floor Columbus, OH 43210	rep62@ohiohouse.gov	(614) 644-6023
Senate			
Sen. Steve Huffman (R-Lima), President of the Senate	Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215	shuffman@ohiosenate.gov	(614) 466-7584
Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Cleveland), Chair, Budget Committee	Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215	dolan@ohiosenate.gov	(614) 466-8056
Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R-), Vice Chair, Budget Committee	Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215	gavarone@ohiosenate.gov	(614) 466-8060
Sen. Louis W. Blessing, III (R-Hamilton)	Senate Building 1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215	blessing@ohiosenate.gov	(614) 466-8068

Or visit <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/> to find your representatives

TEMPLATE LETTER

June 10, 2021

Senator/Representative
[Address]
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator/Representative:

My name is [xxxx] and I live and work in [LOCATION], Ohio. [Say a little bit about yourself – where you grew up, where you go church, what you believe.]

Children depend on the decisions made by adults and we cannot let them down. Ohio's budget is a reflection of our values, and I urge you to invest in what matters – let's do right by our children. This means that we must invest in whole child wellbeing – not just pieces and parts.

I write to you today about issues that I care about and believe will impact all Ohio children for generations to come:

- **All Children Deserve Fair School Funding:** The House version of the budget included the “Fair School Funding Plan”, which has been developed over the past several years with a broad coalition of educators, school leaders, community input, etc. This robust school funding plan is widely supported and based on best practices, actual costs, and what's best for a child's educational experience. [This plan is preferred over the Senate plan.](#)
- **Support Broadband for All Ohioans:** Access to health, economic, and educational opportunity requires access to broadband. However, the Senate removed critical funding for broadband infrastructure that was included in the House version of the budget (\$190M). Note: [Ohio has a \\$2.3B problem with broadband and over 1 million Ohioans lacking access.](#) The \$190M represented an important down payment in building out this infrastructure and must be restored for the sake of our children and families.
- **Support Children's Health and Wellbeing:** [The Senate version of the budget includes an important provision that would extend post-partum insurance coverage through Medicaid to new parents.](#) However, we're disappointed to see the Governor's proposed expansion of evidence-based home visiting for parents and their children eliminated from the Senate version. The Governor's proposal would expand evidenced-based home visiting to children aged five and would also increase the frequency of nurse visits.
- **All Children Deserve Quality Child Care:** I am concerned about the [Senates' decision to eliminate Step Up to Quality \(SUTQ\)](#), Ohio's 5-star Quality Rating and Improvement System. Eliminating Step Up to Quality is a direct assault on children, families, childcare providers and professionals, philanthropies, businesses, communities, and Ohio taxpayers who have invested millions of dollars in this evidence-based approach.

- **Prioritize Investments in Children and Families.** [The Senate and the House each provided for an income tax cut, 2% and 5% respectively.](#) However, these tax reductions are symbolic at best and do nothing to benefit struggling Ohioans. The Senate’s proposed 5% income tax reduction will cost \$854M. These funds are best used to support desperately needed public services such as child care quality, broadband infrastructure, Fair School Funding, etc.

Ohio is at a crossroads and now is the time for us to chart a bold path to support our children and our future. That means investing in infrastructure and supports that extend opportunity to all children regardless of their zip code – whether they live in rural, urban, Appalachian, or small town communities.

The choice is ours and we must envision a future for our children that builds a path to prosperity where all children in Ohio can be healthy, are safe, benefit from quality early care and education, and have a world-class educational experience that prepares them for successful adulthood. I am asking you as someone who represents me and the interests I have, especially those that impact the lives of Ohio children, to make bold choices that invest in and are representative of long-term vision for our great state. I guarantee you that these efforts and believing in Ohio is worth it.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Your Name

Business or Affiliation (Optional)

Where you live (County is fine)

Cell phone:

Email:

TEMPLATE EMAIL

Dear Senator/Representative:

My name is [xxxx] and I live and work in [LOCATION], Ohio. [Say a little bit about yourself – where you grew up, where you go church, what you believe.]

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Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Your Name

Business or Affiliation (Optional)

Where you live (County is fine)

Cell phone:

Email:

PHONE CALL SCRIPT

Good morning, afternoon, evening,

My name is [] and I live in [City/Town]. I appreciate your time and your service to Ohioans. As a constituent, I'm calling to share with you my perspectives on several issues affecting Ohio's most vulnerable children:

- **All Children Deserve Fair School Funding:** The House version of the budget included the “Fair School Funding Plan”, which has been developed over the past several years with a broad coalition of educators, school leaders, community input, etc. This robust school funding plan is widely supported and based on best practices, actual costs, and what's best for a child's educational experience. [This plan is preferred over the Senate plan.](#)
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Thank you again for your service and attention to these important issues, which are critical to our children and to the future of our state. I can be reached at (Your Phone Number or Email Address).

Good bye.