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GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Kasich Administration Accomplishments for 2017

STRENGTHENING OHIO'S JOBS-FRIENDLY CLIMATE

- **Keeping Ohio on Solid Financial Footing:** A climate of fiscal balance and stability continues to be the most important signal Ohio can send to job creators as they look to do business in a state that's on solid financial footing. The biennial budget signed by Gov. Kasich in June 2017 continues the Administration's tradition of conservative, structurally balanced budgeting and restrained spending that has served Ohio well for the past seven years.
- **Streamlining Ohio's Tax System:** The most recent biennial budget reduced the number of state income tax brackets from nine to just seven and streamlined Ohio's tax system by giving businesses the option of filing just one form for their municipal taxes and making a single payment through the Ohio Business Gateway. This builds upon progress in recent years to address long-standing issues in Ohio's municipal tax system.
- **Giving Back to Ohio Employers Another \$1.1 Billion in Workers' Compensation Rebates:** The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation returned more than \$1.1 billion in rebates to Ohio employers in 2017, including \$136 million to local schools, governments and other public employers. Combined with two previous rebates of \$1 billion, a \$1 billion credit and nearly \$2 billion in rate cuts, the bureau has saved employers \$6.3 billion since 2011.
- **Spurring Economic Development:** Through November 2017, JobsOhio worked on 227 projects with companies that committed to create 19,322 new jobs, retain 63,480 jobs and invest a total of \$5.3 billion in new capital investment. (Final job-growth metrics for 2017 will be available from JobsOhio in March 2018).
- **Reforming Ohio's Regulatory Environment:** The Common Sense Initiative (CSI) was one of the earliest initiatives of the Kasich Administration, charged with eliminating excessive or duplicative rules and regulations. In 2017, CSI examined 2,483 rules and either amended or rescinded approximately 58 percent of those reviewed.
- **Growing Businesses at Record Levels:** Through October of 2017, nearly 100,000 new entities have filed to do business in the state of Ohio. That's more than 11,000 new entities than at the same point in 2016. Each year of Gov. Kasich's administration has led to a new annual record for business filings, and Ohio is well on its way to reaching that same milestone in 2017.
- **Creating Jobs:** Since January of 2011, Ohio private sector jobs have grown by nearly 500,000, making Ohio one of the top job creators in the nation over the course of the Kasich administration. At the same time, Ohio's ranking for job growth rate has skyrocketed. In the 20 years prior to the Kasich administration Ohio ranked 46th in job growth rate. Since January 2011, Ohio has leapt to 24th, making the Buckeye state the 5th most improved state in job growth rate.

TAKING OHIO TO WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- **Unlocking the Full Power of State Government’s Data Resources:** Ohio state government is taking the benefits of advanced data analytics to the next level by requiring state agencies, boards and commissions to share the data they now store in more than 1,600 separate databases. By better connecting and correlating these individual data resources and applying advanced analytical technologies, the state can tackle complex problems such as infant mortality, child welfare issues, opiate addiction, poverty, and school dropout rates. For example, in December 2017, the state awarded a contract to harness the power of data analytics by coordinating databases dealing with efforts to reduce infant mortality.
- **Creating Smart Highways as Testing Corridors for New Transportation Technologies:** To complement two advanced transportation research corridors along the Ohio Turnpike and a 35-mile stretch of U.S. 33, the state began work on two additional smart highway projects in 2017. Portions of the Interstate 270 beltway in Columbus and Interstate 90 in northeast Ohio are being outfitted as laboratory highways for innovators to refine jobs-creating technologies for linked and autonomous vehicles. Also in 2017, construction began on Ohio’s first SmartLane, along Interstate 670 in Columbus, providing flexible lane capacity to meet rush-hour demand, advanced digital signage and variable speed limits to adjust for road and traffic conditions.
- **Making Ohio the Premier Destination for Smart Mobility:** Ohio is creating a statewide center that will bring together those responsible for building infrastructure in Ohio with those who are developing new transportation technologies to better coordinate efforts and connect transportation providers with automotive and equipment manufacturers.
- **Investing in the Transportation Research Center, North America’s Foremost Independent Automotive Proving Ground:** Funding in the Kasich Administration’s transportation budget, together with commitments from the federal government and other partners, invests \$45 million for expanded research capabilities at the Transportation Research Center in East Liberty – North America’s most advanced independent automotive test facility and an ideal environment for autonomous vehicle and smart highway research.
- **Developing the Nation’s First “Sense and Avoid” Test Site for Drones:** Ohio is working with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory to develop a ground-based “sense-and avoid-system” for unmanned aircraft and has already invested in a \$5 million cooperative effort. The state remains committed to advancing work underway at the Ohio Unmanned Aircraft System Center and Test Complex in Springfield for further research that gives Ohio a major advantage as drones become the basis for new industries and economic growth.
- **Improving Cybersecurity:** To ensure that Ohio’s government, education and research infrastructure is protected against outside cybersecurity threats, the Kasich Administration initiated plans for a “cyber range” – a virtual environment used for cybersecurity training and IT infrastructure testing. In addition, the state is working with the business community to encourage an increase in the number of students who pursue certificates or degrees in cybersecurity.
- **Encouraging New Business Development through University Discoveries:** To encourage more technology commercialization and the formation of start-up businesses using discoveries made at Ohio’s public colleges and universities, Ohio is directing schools to adopt policies to break down barriers to taking intellectual property to the marketplace. The chancellor of higher education may now consider whether an

institution has a tenure track for faculty members who pursue commercialization activities in order for that institution to receive research funds from the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

- Moving State Computer Systems Into the Cloud: Cloud computing is transforming business and industry across the world, and state government in Ohio has been moving aggressively over the past seven years to capitalize on the benefits of storing its data in the cloud. Through 2017, state agencies have moved about 87 percent of their computer systems to the cloud, improving the way government interfaces with the public, strengthening security and reducing costs.
- Bringing State Government into the Digital Age: State government in Ohio has been aggressively finding ways to modernize its processes, using digital and electronic technologies to move away from paper forms and applications. A number of improvements in 2017 – including statewide document management and e-Fax systems – helped toward removing paper from state government transactions and improving customer service, enhancing security and reducing costs. Ohio is also developing a statewide grants management system to support the electronic processing of all grants as well as a system to allow signatures required on state documents to be submitted electronically.

HELPING MORE OHIOANS PREPARE FOR COLLEGE OR CAREERS

- Allocating Record Resources for K-12 Education: In the FY2018-2019 biennial budget, the Kasich Administration increased base support to Ohio schools by more than \$166 million, spending \$1.5 billion more for K-12 education than in 2011 – the strongest level ever at nearly \$10.6 billion.
- Better Preparing Students with Expanded STEM Programs and New STEAM Education: Ohio has grown educational opportunities focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The state budget enhances those opportunities with a new STEAM designation available for schools, with the “A” representing Arts. This new designation recognizes the additional career opportunities and critical creative skills offered to Ohio’s students by exposing them to these increasingly important fields.
- Leveraging the Strength of Ohio’s Public Library System: The state budget positioned Ohio’s public libraries as “continuous learning centers” and helped adult learners access online programs to gain additional skills.
- Addressing the Skills Gap, Making It Easier for Schools to Provide Work Experience: While public schools have had flexibility in providing credit for internships and other work experience, that ability has often been underutilized. The biennial budget requires districts to review and update their plans and policies to ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive credit for appropriate work experience. In addition, schools now offer an *OhioMeansJobs* designation on high school diplomas for students who demonstrate that they are job-ready.
- Awarding Degrees and Certificates Based on Competency Instead of Just Classroom Time: Ohio’s chancellor of higher education can now recognize Western Governors University, a multi-state, nonprofit online institution that awards college credit and degrees based on a student’s demonstrated competencies instead of just the amount of time spent in the classroom. The university provides a flexible college option for working, adult learners to pursue a college degree in four career fields.
- Offering Bachelor’s Degrees at Community Colleges Where There Is a Demand That Is Not Being Met: Six Ohio community colleges have requested permission to offer nine different bachelor degrees in regions of

the state where Ohio's universities do not offer specialized degree programs. The program must demonstrate employer demand and be a partnership between industry and the community college. This provides another low-cost pathway for students and strengthens Ohio's ability to meet workforce demands in the Knowledge Economy. Proposed degree programs range from culinary and food services to unmanned aerial systems.

- Strengthening Pathways to a Low-Cost Degree: The success of Ohio's efforts to provide a seamless transition between community colleges and four-year universities has paved the way for expanded opportunities to allow students to complete three years of their coursework at a community college and finish their degree at a four-year university. While a number of schools have "3+1" pathway agreements, Ohio's new budget will help institutions interested in developing more such agreements between Ohio's two- and four-year institutions.
- Preparing Ohioans for Today's Workplace and for Jobs of the Future: At Gov. Kasich's request, the Executive Workforce Board recommended 58 strategies for preparing and continuously retraining Ohioans of all ages for the jobs of today and the future. These recommendations, including many reflected in the FY2018-2019 biennial budget, constitute three main themes: 1) connecting business and education; 2) creating a culture of continuous learning; and 3) building alternative career pathways for students and job seekers. The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and Executive Workforce Board continue to collaborate with partners throughout the state to implement all 58 recommendations, making considerable progress to date.
- Helping Employers and Higher Education Improve Workforce Training for In-Demand Careers: Through the Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAPIDS) program, the Ohio Department of Higher Education has brought together higher education institutions and employers to provide shared equipment to be used for local in-demand workforce training needs. Nearly \$8 million has been invested in eight collaborative projects, providing funds to purchase equipment for worker training in fields such as health care, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing. For example, institutions across Ohio – ranging from community colleges to universities – were awarded nearly \$600,000 to purchase additive manufacturing and 3D printing equipment, giving students advanced training opportunities in emerging technologies.

CARING FOR OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

- Providing Better Choices for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities: Building on the previous biennium's historic investment of \$286 million in additional state funding for Ohio's developmental disabilities system, the FY2018-2019 state budget includes an additional \$65 million. This increased support continues the Kasich Administration's commitment to providing more opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive care in the community.
- Supporting Mental Health Services: The state budget signed in June 2017 maintains the Kasich Administration's strong commitment to support Ohioans with mental health needs, including the continued integration of Ohio's behavioral and physical health systems, increased crisis bed capacity and strengthened support for children in crisis.
- Using Innovation and New Technologies to Improve Transportation for Those Seeking Health Care Services: Over the past seven years, as the state has improved health care coordination for the most vulnerable Ohioans, the transportation system many rely upon to access medical appointments remained

outdated and inconsistent. The state budget signed in June 2017 allows the Ohio Department of Medicaid to assume responsibility for management of non-emergency medical transportation services, beginning as early as July 2018. Modernizing this system will enable these services to operate more efficiently; providing consistent, safe, and high quality service to Ohioans on Medicaid, no matter where they live.

- Protecting Young Ohioans from Lead Paint Hazards: Over the past five years, with the support of federal funding, the Ohio Department of Health's Lead Hazard Control Program, has helped local communities identify and repair homes and apartments containing lead-based paint, a toxic hazard for infants and children. The department now maintains an on-line registry in 34 counties, listing residential units that have been made lead-safe through this program.

SAFEGUARDING OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Strengthening Efforts to Protect Lake Erie: Senate Bill 2, championed by the Kasich Administration and signed by the governor in 2017 strengthens the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's ability to help the state meet its commitments under the binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to reduce phosphorus in Lake Erie's Western Basin 40 percent by 2025 and to refocus efforts on its Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Strategy.
- Partnering with Higher Education to Study Water Quality: To create solutions to combat harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie and across Ohio, the state continued its partnerships in 2017 with The Ohio State University, University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University and Heidelberg University, among others. The coalition of universities is now completing its research on an expedited schedule and working with agencies to identify priorities and gaps relating to the state's algae-prevention strategy, inform policy makers on drinking water treatment, and provide research and analysis on Ohio's water quality program. Since the start of the Kasich Administration through the end of FY2018, the state will have spent a total of \$8 million to study harmful algae blooms.
- Encouraging Better Use of Dredge Materials: Senate Bill 2 also provides a straightforward regulatory framework for the safe and beneficial reuse of material dredged from federal navigation channels by giving users and marketers of dredged material defined criteria for classifying this material.
- Requiring Financial Assurance for Privately Owned Water Systems: When the owner of a private water system shows an unwillingness or inability to make repairs to ensure safe drinking water for Ohio citizens, the Ohio EPA now has tools to fix the problem, while requiring financial assurance from new or modified private water systems to ensure that needed repairs are made.
- Requiring Ongoing Asset Management Efforts by Public Water Systems: Ohio addressed poor management seen at some public water systems in the past by requiring each system operator to implement an asset management program to demonstrate ongoing technical, financial and managerial capability,
- Ensuring Responsible Disposal of Construction and Demolition Debris: Ohio established much-needed regulatory oversight of construction and demolition debris processing facilities to ensure these potential pollutants are properly managed and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Strengthening the State's Ability to Clean up Abandoned Landfills: The Kasich Administration championed new laws to strengthen the Ohio EPA's ability to inspect, evaluate and clean up abandoned landfills.

STRENGTHENING OHIO'S FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

- **Investing \$1 Billion in Ohio's Fight against Drug Abuse and Addiction:** In FY2017, the state invested more than \$1 billion to help fight drug abuse and addiction. The new biennial budget maintains this strong funding commitment in order to provide continued access to health care for many Ohioans struggling with addiction, while increasing support for other treatment and recovery efforts, as well as interdiction.
- **Putting in Place New Limits for Opiate Prescriptions:** Ohio put in place stringent new limits on prescriptions issued for the treatment of acute pain. Adoption of these limits – no more than seven days of opiates for adults and five days for minors – is projected to reduce opiate doses in Ohio by 109 million over the coming year to help save lives and fight addiction.
- **Encouraging New Scientific Breakthroughs to Tackle Addiction:** Ohio has developed the most comprehensive approach to fighting drug abuse and addiction in the nation, and recognizes that its world-class research centers and business community can be a tremendous asset in our fight against addiction. In 2017, at Gov. Kasich's request, the Third Frontier Commission set aside up to \$20 million to help advance new scientific breakthroughs that can help curb drug abuse and addiction. In the first round of funding, in December 2017, the commission awarded \$10 million to seven different entities for innovative scientific ideas to address various components of the drug epidemic.
- **Strengthening Prescription Drug Oversight:** In January 2017, Gov. Kasich signed Senate Bill 319, which included reforms championed by the Administration to strengthen opiate-prescription oversight by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy and encourage responsible treatment and preventing overdoses. Among its provisions are requirements for: Ohio pharmacy technicians to register with the Board of Pharmacy to ensure uniformity in the background-check process; for all technicians to maintain a set level of competency through continuing education; for all facilities in possession of controlled substances to be licensed by the Board of Pharmacy to reduce opportunities for diversion; and for facilities with prescribers who treat more than 30 individuals to be licensed with the Board of Pharmacy to ensure that buprenorphine products are appropriately prescribed.
- **Reducing Opioid Dependence among Injured Workers:** To cut the number of opioid painkillers prescribed to injured workers and thus reduce the risk of opioid dependence, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation developed rules requiring those treated for lower back injuries to undergo at least 60 days of comprehensive conservative care before considering a surgical option. This and other pharmacy management changes implemented by the bureau since 2011 have cut both the number of opioids prescribed and the rate of worker dependence in half over the past seven years.
- **Ensuring Uniform Prescribing Guidelines to Help in the Fight against Addiction:** Critical to work by the Kasich Administration's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) in 2017 was its review and coordination of opiate prescribing guidelines submitted by four state regulatory boards. CSI helped ensure the separate boards established uniform standards for patient care while enhancing protection from addiction.

REDUCING OVERCROWDING AND IMPROVING SECURITY IN OHIO'S STATE PRISONS

- **Transitioning More Ex-Offenders into Jobs:** The Kasich Administration has focused on policies that help those with criminal convictions get back on their feet, become productive members of society and take part in the state's economic success. Each year, about 22,000 ex-offenders must wait as long as one year after

leaving the prison system to apply for and receive a Certificate of Qualification for Employment, which helps them obtain employment in certain fields. The law now permits the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to identify certain offenders (those with vocational skills or other exceptional program accomplishments) to apply to the courts for the needed certification immediately upon release.

- Providing Resources to Local Communities for Enhanced Reentry and Diversion Efforts: In 2016, approximately 8,300 of the nearly 20,000 individuals committed to Ohio prisons were sent there for one year or less, and about half of those were the lowest level of felony offences. Legislation championed by the Kasich Administration created the Targeted Community Alternatives Program (T-CAP), making nearly \$60 million in grants available through the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to provide local communities with resources to manage such low-level, non-violent and often drug-addicted Ohioans in more effective local community settings. To date, a total of 48 counties are participating, and more are expected to join in 2018. By assisting local communities to manage these low-level offenders in a less costly, more effective alternative to prison, T-CAP helps ensure that these individuals receive the essential treatment they need at the community level, while contributing to the reduction of Ohio's prison population.

MAKING UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENTS IN OHIO'S HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continuing Ohio's Record-breaking Pace for Highway Repairs and Improvements: Over the past seven years, during a time when many states have fallen behind in repairs and improvements to their highway infrastructure, Ohio has invested an unprecedented \$14 billion in nearly 7,000 projects. The two-year transportation budget signed this year will fund 43 major highway improvement projects in addition to 446 separate bridge projects, 615 pavement projects and 356 safety enhancement projects.
- Laying Groundwork to Ensure Ohio's Leadership in Smart Mobility Technologies: As detailed earlier (Preparing Ohio for the Jobs of the Future), Ohio took major steps in 2017 toward creation of smart highway corridors and other initiatives to make Ohio a premier destination for the testing, development and implementation of smart mobility technologies.

CREATING A SAFER OHIO

- Adopting First-Ever Standards to Improve Community/Police Relations: More than 500 agencies employing over 27,000 officers in all 88 counties are participating in Ohio's new certification process to improve community and police relations. Each agency has demonstrated successful implementation of Ohio's new statewide standards for the use of force, including deadly force, and model hiring and recruiting practices to ensure high-quality, diverse and professional law enforcement personnel.
- Gaining a Better Understanding of Officer-Involved Shootings: Ohio took steps in 2017 to enhance its current law enforcement reporting system to better track and analyze the use of force and to study common, contributing factors in an effort to improve overall community-police relations. As a result this will provide a better understanding of when officers across the state have used force in the line of duty – including Tasers, batons, hands or other weapons.
- Combating Human Trafficking: The Governor's Human Trafficking Task Force is now enlisting the efforts of the Ohio Investigative Unit's undercover agents who may interact with potential victims of human trafficking in the course of their assigned enforcement roles. The agents are uniquely positioned to reach youth and young adults on liquor permit premises, and routinely partner with local law enforcement on investigations.

- Keeping the Rate of Workplace Injuries in Ohio Below the National Average for a Fourth Consecutive Year: Successful efforts by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to promote safe and healthy workplaces are reflected in the most recent annual statistics, showing workplace injuries and illnesses in Ohio dropped nine percent last year – well below the national average for a fourth consecutive year. Ohio experienced 2.7 injuries per 100 full-time employees in 2016, bettering the national average of 3.2 injuries per 100. In addition, the total number of workers' compensation claims dropped below 88,000, the lowest level in Ohio since at least 1997, when there were more than 277,000 claims.

