



introduction

Ohio's lawmakers have some serious choices to make in the next few weeks before revealing their final budget on June 30. Unfortunately, revenue projections have plunged in the last few months much lower than expected, and now lawmakers have to go back to the drawing board to fix a **\$3 billion hole** in the state budget.

State agency directors have been asked to come up with cost cutting scenarios of 10, 20 and 30 percent cuts for their agencies. *Your union is extremely troubled by these developments.*

That's why we have decided to ask every OCSEA member to help save our services by participating in a **Day of Action** and contacting their legislators on **June 23**. Please see "How to Take Part in Day of Action" flier for more information.



talking points FOR PHONING AND POSTCARDS

OCSEA members have already taken concessions in their contract in a good faith effort to save jobs. In total, nearly **\$250 million is being saved** thanks to OCSEA members through a combination of contract cuts, that include unpaid days off and cuts in holidays.

- **The state has lost 3,000 employees** due to cost cutting measures in the last biennium. 2,000 of these were OCSEA members from the rank and file of state government.
- Ohio's government has already been severely downsized in recent years including **the closures of 8 institutions**, four of them in the last two years (2 prisons, 2 DYS facilities, 2 mental health facilities, 2 developmental centers have been closed.)
- Cuts to some agencies have all but wiped out state programming in some agencies. (See "What's happened to the state services I love" flier). ODNR, for example, has been **downsized by nearly 50 percent of its staff**, with the closure of state parks all but assured if more cuts are looming.
- OCSEA has participated in joint labor/management "cost savings" committees that are **saving millions of dollars for the state**. In ODJFS, the committee recommended office consolidations. In DR&C, they developed a plan to save \$6 million by consolidating a private, DUI facility with Grafton Correctional Institution at a savings to the taxpayer of \$6 million.
- Management to bargaining unit ratios continue to be out of balance. Typically, when state budgets are reduced, it's the rank and file that is disproportionately cut. Today, the average ratio of **bargaining unit-to-exempt employees in Ohio's state government is a staggering 2.07 to 1**.
- Some proposals in the budget attack working families and their collective bargaining rights. For instance, employees at the Statehouse who have been concerned about inmates taking their jobs, are being stripped of their collective bargaining rights in the new version of the budget bill. Community corrections employees are also being unfairly targeted so that they **lose their rights to join a union**. We believe this is unfair to working families who have a right to earn a fair wage and to have the protections of a union contract.
- Lawmakers need to step up to the plate and come up with some **responsible new revenue sources** that don't penalize working families, but that ensure safety net services remain.