



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
May 9, 2014

Gov. Kasich outsources state security officers while declaring Public Service Recognition Week

Westerville – The Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, the state’s largest public employee union, today is denouncing Ohio leaders, including Gov. John Kasich and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who made an executive declaration to honor public servants while, at the same time, outsourcing state security positions.

This week, public sector security guards who protect and serve many of Ohio’s state office buildings were notified that their state positions in the Dept. of Administrative Services would be privatized. This is in addition to a dozen of those positions that were privatized with the same company just a year ago.

The irony of this is that just days before this outsourcing announcement was made, Kasich and Taylor were touting public work and the employees who perform it as "vital" to all Ohioans. “But now we know this ‘declaration’ was no more than smoke and mirrors,” said Kenneth Keirns, a DAS employee and union leader who represents the workers.

On May 4, the two chief executives declared May 4-10 as Public Service Recognition Week in Ohio by signing a resolution that read in part: “Ohio government depends on the dedicated work of professional public servants and these dedicated men and women tend to the day-to-day functioning of our communities, and their adept handling of their duties improves the quality of our lives.”

“We at OCSEA celebrate Public Service Recognition Week very differently, with actions, not words,” said OCSEA President Christopher Mabe. “We know public services benefit our communities and we believe in the work that the public servants we represent do. We fight to preserve, protect and recognize this invaluable work every day.”

It is uncertain how these employees ultimately will be impacted when it’s all said and done, said Mabe. “But what is certain is that these positions will no longer offer the job protections and competitive wages and benefits that are needed to make Ohio a cut above the rest.” Four security guard positions will be privatized, and others will be lost through attrition.

OCSEA represents approximately 30,000 public employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions. For more information, contact Deirdre Wedig, 614-865-2604 or 614-886-1152 (cell).