



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **OCSEA: Collective bargaining repeal to weaken Ohio's middle class**

WESTERVILLE – Over a thousand Ohio public employees converged on the Ohio Statehouse today with one message: Repealing collective bargaining rights for state employees will hurt hard-working middle class Ohioans and kill jobs!

“No economic problem was ever solved by cutting the middle class,” said OCSEA President Eddie L. Parks. “The promise was to create jobs, not cut the salaries and benefits of middle class employees who protect our communities, teach our children or care for our most vulnerable citizens.”

“You don’t create jobs by taking one \$16 per hour job and making two \$8 per hour jobs. That’s not good economics and it’s not good for Ohio communities,” Parks said.

Parks disagrees with the bill’s sponsor Sen. Shannon Jones (Springboro) that the state’s “hands are tied” and that collective bargaining hamstring the state and local governments.

OCSEA has worked with the state to save \$250 million in its current contract alone and has taken five pay cuts in nine years.

According to a recent analysis, a union and management cooperative effort has saved the state \$100 million in health care costs over three years. Changes included increased co-pays and out-of-pocket maximums, spousal surcharges and, most recently, a move to a one-vendor plan.

In the nearly 28 years that state employees have had to the right to bargain collectively, not once has OCSEA voted to strike. In fact, the law has reduced labor strife and improved training and productivity among public employees.

“The problems Ohio is facing are real — there’s no doubt. But we need REAL solutions to these problems, not distractions or political posturing,” said Parks. “Let’s get real. Ohio’s state employees – whose wages make up a miniscule 9 percent of the state budget – are not the reason for our state budget deficit, but they do want to continue to be part of the solution.”

*OCSEA represents approximately 34,000 state employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions.*

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