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160 North Wall St, Unit 305
Columbus, Ohio 43215

April 5, 2017

Representative Ryan Smith, House Finance Committee Chair
77 S. High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Smith:

I have come to speak to the Ohio House Finance Committee today, to express my concern that, as of July 2017, Ohio's Medicaid MCO sales tax would no longer be a permissible taxing method used to draw down Medicaid matching funds from the federal government. Not only will the state lose almost \$600 million in revenues, but the counties will lose over \$200 million in transportation funding.

The solution presented by the governor is merely a band aid, a temporary patch. The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio is asking for a more permanent solution to this situation.

The consequences of losing the transportation funding are significant for the members of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, as well as, all Ohioans who depend on public transportation for their livelihood.

- a. Probable cuts in transit routes. Our members cannot drive, and therefore rely on public transportation for daily activities, such as work, school, shopping, community events, family functions.
- b. Probable cuts in paratransit routes. Paratransit routes are already limited, more cuts in public transit routes, means cuts in paratransit routes.
- c. Increase in fares for transit routes, both public and paratransit routes.
- d. Counties may be forced to take on the burden with levies, increasing property taxes, or increasing local sales taxes.

The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio would support the extension and/or permanent solution, that is being proposed. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Leiterman
National Federation of the Blind of Ohio