

**May 26, 2025**

**Senator Cirino, Chair, Senator Chavez, Vice Chair, Senator Hicks-Hudson, Ranking Member, and members of the Ohio Finance Committee**

Subject: HB 96

Dear Members of the Ohio Finance Committee,

I am strongly opposed to the portion of HB 96 (Section 259.20 item DEVCD22) that allocates \$500,000 over two years to a foreign government. This is not an appropriate use of Ohioans tax dollars.

With impending Federal cuts to the Medicaid and SNAP programs, the burden of public welfare in Ohio will increasingly fall on the state. Taking care of Ohioans should be the primary concern of our state legislature. Diverting tax money to support agriculture and development to country that is a world leader in agricultural technology is completely unnecessary.

I would hope that you would delete this from the bill and direct it to housing, public education, libraries, food, and health care for Ohioans.

Constance Hammond

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