

**HUMAN
SERVICE
CHAMBER**
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

March 6, 2021

Senator Kunze,

We write to express our strong support for the restoration of \$70 million per fiscal year for public transportation funding in HB 74, the State of Ohio's biennial transportation budget.

At the Human Service Chamber, we serve 110 health and human services nonprofit organizations that understand better than most the imperative role that public transportation--especially the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)--plays for hundreds of thousands of our members' clients, as well as their 14,000 employees.

COTA ensures access to jobs, healthcare, school, child care, food, legal services, housing, and much more for people of all ages: from newborn children to our communities most senior members, COTA makes our ever-growing city more accessible, and makes the social services infrastructure more accessible.

The importance of COTA to our sector is precisely why so many of our agencies' physical locations are on bus lines. And on any given year, our members spend around \$750,000 on bus passes alone.

Put another way: Without a robust public transportation system, the health and human services system would be dealt a significant blow.

And while this has long been true, the value of public transit to the Columbus Region has been amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we all strive to help one another through this crisis, our members' ability to help their clients navigate these still-turbulent times requires an untrammelled public transportation investment of \$70 million per fiscal year.

Because public transit is crucial for the recovery of Ohio's economy, we respectfully ask that the state budget maintain public transit funding at \$70 million per fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Corey
Executive Director
Human Service Chamber of Franklin County

Cosignatories

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

ALVIS, INC

BESA COMMUNITY

BISHOP GRIFFIN RESOURCE CENTER

THE BREATHING ASSOCIATION

BRIDGEWAY ACADEMY

THE BUCKEYE RANCH

THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES

CENTRAL COMMUNITY HOUSE

CITY YEAR COLUMBUS

CLC WORKS

COLUMBUS EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

COLUMBUS WORKS, INC.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF OHIO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE

COMMUNITY FOR NEW DIRECTION

COMMUNITY HOUSING NETWORK

COMPDRUG

CREATIVE LIVING, INC.

CRIS - COMMUNITY REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

EQUITAS HEALTH

FREEDOM A LA CART

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF CENTRAL OHIO

GLADDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE

Cosignatories

GODMAN GUILD ASSOCIATION

GOODWILL COLUMBUS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY-MIDOHIO

HARMONY PROJECT

HOMEPORT

HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE, INC.

IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION

JEFFERSON AVENUE CENTER

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

KALEIDOSCOPE YOUTH CENTER

KIPP COLUMBUS

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF CENTRAL OHIO

MID-OHIO BOARD FOR AN INDEPENDENT LIVING ENVIRONMENT

MOMENTUM

MUSLIM FAMILY SERVICES OF OHIO

NETCARE ACCESS

NEW DIRECTIONS CAREER CENTER

NORTH COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTERS, INC.

THE P.E.E.R. CENTER

PELTONIA

PRIMARYONE HEALTH

SOUTH SIDE EARLY LEARNING

ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE

YMCA OF CENTRAL OHIO

YOUTH YOGA PROJECT

YWCA COLUMBUS