



# News Release

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## **CCAO Thanks Ohio House for Additional Support in Many Areas of County Government**

COLUMBUS, Ohio –The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) would like to thank the Ohio House of Representatives for preserving many of Governor DeWine’s initiatives in children’s services, child welfare placement cost transparency, regional crisis stabilization centers, indigent defense delivery, increasing the Local Government Fund, and others. Additionally, the House further strengthened the state-county partnership through targeted investments in indigent defense reimbursement to counties, and 9-1-1 funding.

Furthermore, the Ohio House inserted language into the operating budget to reform county government and explore potential efficiencies through a performance audit of the indigent defense system, eliminating the county coroner as an elected office holder, eliminating the dual licensure of the county engineer, and adding a member of the board of commissioners to the county budget commission. Last but certainly not least, CCAO would like to thank the committee for providing an increase in county elected official pay. Inflation and labor market pressures are making it difficult to find and keep candidates for these important county positions and the compensation increase included in HB 96 will assist in those efforts.

“The budget passed out of House today greatly strengthens the state-county partnership and CCAO is truly thankful for the leadership of Chairman Brian Stewart, and members of the Ohio House for their support of county government,” CCAO President David Painter said. “This House has taken the time to listen to the challenges faced by county government and has provided support both financially and through policy changes to ensure that counties are providing essential services and operating efficiently.”

Children’s services funding, child welfare placement cost transparency, regional crisis stabilization centers, increased indigent defense reimbursement, increased funding to 9-1-1, and increased capacity and access to child care were some of CCAO’s top budget priorities for this budget cycle. We are thankful for all members of the Ohio House for their support of county government and look forward to working with the Ohio Senate to maintain or build on these investments and policy changes.

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CCAO supports effective county government through legislative advocacy, education and training, quality enterprise service programs and a greater understanding of county government. By partnering with county commissioners, executives and council members, CCAO and its members work toward a shared goal of improving and advancing Ohio’s 88 counties. Stronger counties build a stronger Ohio.