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Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Testimony in Support of the Budget of the Office of the Governor
Tracy Intihar, Cabinet Secretary
May 16, 2011

Chairman Widener, Ranking Minority Member Skindell and other members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Executive Recommendations for the Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 budget for the Office of the Governor as developed jointly by our office and the Office of Budget and Management.

As you know, the role of the Office of the Governor is to perform statutory duties as defined in the Ohio Constitution and the Ohio Revised Code. The Governor oversees the cabinet agencies, formulates administrative policy, recommends legislation and proposes operating and capital budgets. The Governor also considers and acts upon legislation passed by the General Assembly, in addition to the other duties and responsibilities of the office.

All Funds

The Office of the Governor will see a 5.5 percent decrease in funding in FY 12 over the previous fiscal year and a slight increase in FY 13. FY 12 and 13 will be funded at \$3 million in both fiscal years.

General Revenue Fund

The Governor's Office total for the general revenue is funded at \$2,679,886 for FY 12. This represents a 6.2 percent cut from the previous fiscal year. Funding for FY 13 is recommended at \$2,682,632, a slight increase from the previous year.

In effort to cut costs and improve efficiencies, this administration has closed the Washington DC office, saving \$112,172 annually in lease payments. However, it is important to note that our staff still provides government relations in Washington DC, as well as in state and local governments.

General Services Fund Group

We have an additional line that supports our governmental affairs work. Line Item 040-607, has a \$365,149 appropriation each year of the biennium. This fund was created in a previous administration to allow the Office of the Governor to better serve agencies with issues before the federal and local governments. The fund also provides for Ohio membership and participation in national or regional associations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for the opportunity to discuss the budget of the Office of the Governor. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.