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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WIDENER ANNOUNCES \$165,000 FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT IN GREENE COUNTY**

Columbus—State Senator Chris Widener (R- Springfield) today announced that the State Controlling Board has approved the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) to release \$165,000 for a housing project in Xenia for individual and families with severe and persistent mental illness.

As part of House Bill 496, ODMH has been awarded the capital appropriation dollars for the purchase of three buildings for Community Mental Health Facilities for Housing Solutions of Greene County, Inc., a contract agency of the Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) of Clark, Greene and Madison Counties.

“The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Clark, Greene and Madison Counties is known for effective implementation of state mental health programs, and I am proud the state and community can rely on their efforts,” Widener said. “These dollars will go directly to our friends and neighbors suffering from mental illness in Greene County to help provide them with the support necessary live happy and productive lives.”

The MHRB and its agencies maintain a waiting list of individuals and/or families with severe and persistent mental illness in need of permanent, safe, decent and affordable housing. As house becomes available, consumers and their living environment needs are matched with this list of available housing. The consumers receive visits and supportive services by case managers/agencies of the MHRB. The frequency of visits and services is based on the consumer’s illness and their capacity.

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*Widener represents the 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Madison, Clark, and Greene counties. Widener is Chairman of the Senate’s Finance Committee and is a member of the Government Oversight and Reform, Ways and Means and Economic Development, and Rules and References Committees, and the State Controlling Board.*