



STATE SENATOR  
**JOE SCHIAVONI**

33RD DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Senator Schiavoni Comments on Budget Vote**

*Columbus – State Senator Joe Schiavoni (D-Canfield) issued the following statement after voting “no” on the State Budget (HB 153):*

*“As a representative of the citizens of the 33rd District, voting against this budget was the right thing to do. House Bill 153 was not the “jobs” bill the Governor had proclaimed it to be.*

*The \$8 billion myth was more close to \$5 billion, but that fact did not alleviate funding cuts to vital programs for our most vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly. The people of this state expected job creation from this bill; instead they got radical policy changes and controversial privatization of state assets for one time money. The Senate did make some improvements to this bill, but I’m afraid they didn’t go far enough.*

*I offered an additional two amendments to the budget on the floor yesterday. The first would authorize VLT machines to be used in racetracks, which would generate at least \$400 million in revenue for the state this biennium and bring 1,000 to 1,500 jobs to the Mahoning Valley. The other amendment would modernize Ohio’s unemployment system and support struggling Ohioans with an additional \$176 million of federal stimulus dollars. Although they were both initially rejected, I believe that there is a high possibility of both becoming law, in some form.*

*I hope that as the budget enters its last stages of deliberation, my colleagues will come to a compromise on some of these issues including some of the very thoughtful amendments we offered on the floor yesterday. Regardless, I will continue to represent my constituent’s needs and concerns.”*