



STATE SENATOR
JOE SCHIAVONI

33RD DISTRICT

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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Senator Schiavoni Comments on Passage of State Budget, Racetrack Legislation

Columbus – State Senator Joe Schiavoni (D-Canfield) today rejected the proposed State Budget (HB 153), while expressing concern about the negative effects it will have on Ohioans.

“I voted ‘no’ on the budget today primarily because of the drastic cuts to the most vital services provided to all Ohioans,” said Senator Schiavoni. The bill is expected to include cuts of \$585 million to local governments, \$340 million to nursing homes, \$700 million to schools and nearly \$250 million to universities.

Along with funding cuts, HB 153 also includes thousands of pages of policy changes, including a controversial merit pay system for public school teachers.

“I believe it is wrong to include merit pay language in this budget when a referendum is pending on the matter,” said Senator Schiavoni. “It seems to be a tactic to circumvent the will of the people.”

Not included in the biennial budget bill was Senator Schiavoni’s provision to help unemployed Ohioans. “I was very disappointed to find out that the Unemployment Modernization amendment I proposed was not included. It would have brought \$178 million in additional support for struggling citizens and their families,” said Senator Schiavoni.

In other legislative action today, Senator Schiavoni voted in favor of House Bill 277 which passed the Ohio Senate. HB 277 will allow an existing racetrack to re-locate to a site in the Mahoning Valley.

Senator Schiavoni was pleased to see the legislation passed. “We have worked diligently on this issue, and we are now one step closer to putting people to work in the

Mahoning Valley,” said Senator Schiavoni. It is estimated that more than one thousand jobs would be created if a new race track is relocated to the Youngstown area.