



Senator Peggy Lehner
6th Ohio Senate District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM STATE SENATOR PEGGY LEHNER ON PASSAGE OF
STATE BUDGET**

COLUMBUS— State Senator Peggy Lehner (R- Kettering) issued the following statement today regarding the Ohio Senate’s passage of House Bill 153, the state’s operating budget.

“For the past several months, legislators have concentrated on finding ways to close Ohio’s \$8.5 billion budget while also providing Ohioans with greater control over the money they earn. Without the implementation of a single tax increase, the Ohio Senate has passed a biennium bill that effectively closes the budget shortfall, reduces current spending practices, and places children and families first.”

“Spending reductions of \$3 billion will be seen in Fiscal Year 2012 followed by \$2.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2013. Consolidation of Medicaid services and the increased effort to answer public sector needs with private sector resources promise to streamline government services while also reducing costs. In addition, the preservation of the final phase-in of the 21-percent income tax reduction from 2005 will alleviate economic stress on Ohioans in all 88 counties.”

“This budget has restored *Help Me Grow* funding in order to assist our infants and families who are in the most need of our help and has taken a major step in placing Ohio on the forefront of education excellence. We have expanded school choice in our state while also creating new standards for effectiveness in learning. My colleagues and I are determined to stand up for our children and our schools”