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### **Ohio Education Association endorses House budget bill**

COLUMBUS - The Ohio Education Association approved a resolution of support for Substitute House Bill 1 - the biennial budget and Governor Ted Strickland's school-funding/reform package on Saturday May 9. The approval came from OEA's Representative Assembly, which is the top governing body of the Association. The Representative Assembly is comprised of more than 1,300 delegates elected by local education associations throughout Ohio.

"We have a governor who understands that education and innovation are the foundations of our economy. He knows a strong reinvestment in public schools and colleges is the path to revive Ohio," said OEA President, Patricia Frost-Brooks. Governor Strickland addressed the OEA Representative Assembly Friday and encouraged delegates to embrace his proposals.

The governor's plan, with many positive improvements made before it was passed by the Ohio House of Representatives April 29, provides a number of measures designed to transform Ohio public schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The OEA Resolution said the plan "represents an historic opportunity to improve public education in Ohio and provide the resources needed to provide a high-quality education to all Ohioans."

"Despite these hard economic times, this is a step toward making Ohio schools funding fair and adequate for every Ohio child. We commend Governor Strickland and the House for offering education stakeholders the opportunity to be involved in the process of crafting this legislation," Frost Brooks said.

"This legislation is now before the Ohio Senate, and OEA encourages the Senators to support this challenging vision of public education, from kindergarten through college and university level," said Frost-Brooks. "Ohio cannot afford to waste this historic opportunity."

The Ohio Education Association represents 130,000 teachers, faculty members and support professionals in Ohio's public schools, colleges and universities.