



**Assistant Minority Whip
Desiree Tims**

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Mike DeWine

Governor of the State of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

I am writing to you in the hopes you'll consider a line-item veto to a short, but specifically harmful, portion of the State Operating Budget (Am. Sub. H.B. 96) that was passed by the Ohio legislature. We are asking that you strike the change to EDUCD101, restrictions on student transportation via mass transit systems that, "Requires a school district in a county with a population between 530,000 and 540,000 in the most recent census, that uses mass transit systems to transport students to and from a community or chartered nonpublic school to ensure that any transfer between routes does not occur at the central hub for the mass transit system."

This provision, in effect, establishes a new and unnecessary requirement, one that would currently only be enforced on the Dayton Public Schools (DPS), that, by law, mandates schools find costly transportation alternatives for students barred from mass transit systems because the system uses a central hub.

As you are well aware, Governor DeWine, pursuant to Ohio law, Dayton Public Schools is legally obligated to provide transportation services not only to students enrolled in DPS, but also to those attending charter and private schools within the district's geographic boundaries. The statutory framework does not permit DPS to prioritize transportation for its own students, and any deviation from this mandate subjects the district to state-imposed penalties. At the same time, some of our students must use public transportation to commute to school and do not have alternative means of transportation.

Please also consider that DPS has no control over how Dayton RTA routes passengers or determines transfer points and the power to rest solely with RTA based on their operational model and obligations to the general public.

If not vetoed, this legal requirement imposes a substantial operational and financial burden on the district, particularly in light of current staffing shortages and inadequate funding levels. Not to mention, while this only impacts DPS at this time, that could change with population shifts occurring throughout Ohio. Without an alternative solution, this provision will not help the underlying transportation problems Dayton public schools face along with many other school districts. We should be working collaboratively to analyze the real challenges and develop a sustainable, long-term solution to improve school transportation in our state.

While DPS remains committed to student safety and equitable access to transportation, the existing legal constraints significantly hinder their ability to meet these goals, especially when the resources allocated are insufficient to support the mandated service levels. I sincerely hope you will take action to veto this specific portion of the bill as you complete your review of the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Desiree Tims". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Desiree" being more prominent than the last name "Tims".

Desiree Tims
Assistant Minority Whip
38th House District