



## **Proposed Budget Bill Gives Governor Authority to Establish Nonprofits in State Government**

OANO is opposed to language in Ohio's proposed state budget (Am. Sub. HB 1) that could potentially force the state's nonprofit sector to compete with Ohio's government agencies for funding.

The proposed legislation states: *"The director of each department may form, with the governor's approval and utilizing department resources, one or more nonprofit corporations incorporated under Chapter 1702 of the Revised Code, to solicit financial contributions or in-kind contributions of goods to support the fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities of the department."*

The legislation also allows a department director that forms a nonprofit corporation to permit department employees to serve as directors of the corporation. Any of these directors would be allowed to solicit financial support to aid the department.

"In this difficult economic environment, it's unacceptable that the Governor would want to compete with the thousands of nonprofit organizations in Ohio already facing decreasing resources and increasing needs," said Jennifer Williams, OANO's executive director.

The bill is now in the hands of the Senate where sources have indicated that the language will be removed from the bill. However, the Governor's office has indicated that he will continue to fight for the ability to establish nonprofit organizations within state government.

OANO will continue working on this issue on behalf of Ohio's nonprofit sector and will send out updates as developments occur.

To sign on to a press release being sent out on Monday, May 18, contact Jennifer Williams, OANO's executive director at [jenniferwilliams@oano.org](mailto:jenniferwilliams@oano.org) or call 614-280-0233.