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**OPRA Offers Support for Governor Kasich’s Executive State Budget**

(COLUMBUS, OHIO) – Mark Davis, president of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), issued the following statement today following the release of Governor John Kasich’s executive state budget for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017:

“The Ohio Provider Resource Association applauds Governor Kasich for his strong and continuing support of the work our member organizations do on behalf of Ohioans living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“The budget proposal includes expenditures of state general revenue funds of $45 million and $102 million in the next two fiscal years into Ohio’s system of caring for those individuals. This historic investment in our system has wide-reaching implications. We appreciate the governor’s commitment to supporting people with disabilities having the same opportunities in life as all Ohioans. The investment proposed by Governor Kasich will enable our member agencies to offer more adequate compensation for the direct service professionals who care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These direct service professionals work for poverty-level wages, and they deserve to be fairly compensated for the vital services they provide.

“We look forward to working with the Kasich Administration and Ohio General Assembly in the weeks and months ahead to identify additional opportunities to improve our system of care for vulnerable Ohioans.”

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