July 17, 2019

The Honorable Governor Mike DeWine
77 S. High St., 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Governor DeWine,

Through the budget process, your support for improving the lives of Ohioans was very clear. Your commitment to increasing student need-based aid, the largest increase in a decade, was an outstanding demonstration of your priorities.

Unfortunately, there was language added into the budget that could put Ohio’s education system at grave risk.

Language included in the final version of House Bill (HB) 166 made detrimental changes to Ohio’s teacher license regulations. HB 166 eliminates the requirement that a teacher be “properly certified” to teach core subject areas in traditional school districts, community schools, and STEM school teachers.

This language would effectively allow a teacher who has no subject-area knowledge be hired as a full-time teacher in that subject.

I know that the need for flexibility, especially in rural communities, is paramount. However, repealing the entire Ohio Revised Code 3319.074 without giving the Department of Education the ability to place any guardrails or precautions on this drastic shift is irresponsible.

In Ohio there are 55 institutions, both public and nonprofit, that educated 4,364 teachers last year. To nullify the training of Ohio’s institutions and those students would send the wrong message for ensuring Ohio’s K-12 educational quality.

AICUO strongly supports the Ohio Department of Education’s request for a veto of this provision. We ask that you protect Ohio’s students and the quality of teacher education and veto the changes to section Sec. 3319.074. This veto will ensure that students, teacher educators, and Ohio’s hundreds of school districts and thousands of community schools are protected by the Department of Education.

Cordially,

C. Todd Jones
President and General Counsel