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Advocates for Ohio's Future Introduces 2016-17 Budget Goals

Columbus – Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) previewed its 2016-17 budget goals in a press conference on January 30. The health and human services coalition focused on policy areas that support working Ohioans, help Ohioans access good jobs, and ensure that Ohioans are safe.

For many Ohioans, a job does not always mean a living. When people don't have money to spend on the basics—like food, housing, child care, and transportation—the economy slows down. “Bold policy reform and investments are needed so Ohioans can climb the ladder up and out of poverty, said AOF Co-Chair Mark Davis. “We need targeted investments in our greatest asset—our people.”

Human services play a key role in stabilizing individuals and families so they can compete and thrive in the 21st century economy. Our state has an opportunity to prepare Ohioans to acquire and maintain quality jobs, so in the long run, they can support themselves and their families.

“We agree with Governor Kasich and state lawmakers: jobs are fundamental for a strong economy, stable families, and individual well-being,” said Col Owens, coalition Co-Chair. “It will take bold public investments and policy changes to strengthen Ohio's workforce and make all Ohioans competitive.”

AOF identified four policy areas ripe for bold reform and investment:

Person-Centered Work Programs: Address barriers to work and bridge the gap between what people earn and what they need to provide their family with the basics, including food assistance, housing, and education and training programs.

Programs that Support Working Ohioans: Support working Ohioans through reforming child care eligibility, reauthorizing Ohio's Medicaid program, and making Ohio's earned income tax credit refundable.

Direct Service Workforce: Build and strengthen the direct service workforce by improving the compensation, training, and work conditions of these workers to promote value and achieve better health outcomes.

Adult Protective Services and Child Welfare: Ensure that children and seniors in all counties are safe from neglect, abuse and exploitation.

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Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition of over 475 local and statewide organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so all Ohioans live better lives.