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Date: January 16, 2019

CC: Ohio General Assembly, Statehouse Press Corps

Dear Speaker Householder:

We, the undersigned organizations, wish to congratulate you on your election as Speaker and thank you for your push to increase openness and transparency at the Statehouse. We are particularly pleased and grateful that you have committed to turn on the cameras in all the Ohio House committee rooms--an important step forward for all of Ohio.

Ohioans are continually growing more interested in the actions of the General Assembly and how the legislature impact their lives, and the lives of their Ohio neighbors. We are excited that you agree that now is the time to fully open up the Statehouse to all of Ohio.

Streaming Ohio House committee hearings via the Ohio Channel, and archiving the meetings for at least the entire legislative session in which they take place, will allow those with an interest in the legislative process and its impact on our state to be able to witness how our Ohio House committees operate.

In order to ensure that the cameras stay on, we are also committed to having legislation introduced and passed that will enshrine this requirement in law. This will ensure that future House and Senate leaders cannot unilaterally reverse course.

Thank you again for this important first step towards increased openness at the Statehouse. We look forward to working with you on additional ways to improve transparency during the 133rd General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio

Gary Daniels, ACLU of Ohio

Khaled Salehi, America Votes

Usjid Hameed, CAIR-Ohio

Jen Miller, League of Women Voters of Ohio

Tom Roberts, NAACP Ohio Chapter

Kelly Copeland, NARAL Pro-choice Ohio

Sarah Schregardus, Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Stephen Johnson Grove, Ohio Justice and Policy Center

Carolyn Casper, Ohio National Organization of Women

Dennis Hetzel, Ohio News Media Association

Camille Wimbish, Ohio Voter Rights Coalition

Kalitha Williams, Policy Matters Ohio

Niki Clum, Office of the Ohio Public Defender

John Pudner, Take Back Our Republic

Support for Turn On the Cameras includes many other local organizations.