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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE

March 3, 2011

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Dear Governor Kasich:

I write to request a reversal in the recent decision made by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) to move psychiatric hospital services out of the City of Cleveland. While I am aware that both the previously proposed Cleveland site for a new hospital and the current Cleveland hospital may not be flawless, retaining and adding service capacity in Cleveland is vitally important.

According to the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) of Cuyahoga County, nearly all of approximately 2,000 yearly admissions to the Cleveland facility are from the City of Cleveland. Nearly all of these persons and their families are extremely low-income. Expanding to a location not served by public transportation and not located in close proximity to the homes of patients and their families places an undue burden on patients and their treatment.

In the past four years, ODMH has received more than \$92 million to build a facility in the City of Cleveland. Using this money to renovate other hospitals outside of the area of intended use would ignore the reason for the allocations: Cleveland needs much more service capacity than currently exists.

I strongly object to money allocated for Cleveland to be used for services outside Cleveland and not easily accessible to Clevelanders.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress