

**Nickie J. Antonio**  
**Minority Leader**  
**Senate District 23**



**Kent Smith**  
**Minority Whip**  
**Senate District 21**

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor of the State of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation has announced that they plan to open up a new Level 1 Trauma Center at their main campus, changing the landscape of trauma care in Northeast Ohio. We write to request that a trauma needs assessment be conducted by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to verify and review if the proposed expansion meets defined clinical, staffing, and academic standards for this level of care. To our knowledge an assessment has not been done thus far. The Cleveland Clinic Foundation starting this work before any evaluation has been made could result in negative unintended consequences to our region.

The Cuyahoga County Delegation from the Ohio House and Senate have sent a letter to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation asking for more information about this project and its possible effects on our community. We await a response. Attached please find this and additional correspondence for your reference.

We understand that the Governor may request that an assessment be conducted. We respectfully ask and appreciate your consideration to call for an assessment by the ACS so that we can fully understand how this change will impact trauma care for Ohioans before this project moves any further.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Madison.Bredice@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Madison.Bredice@ohiosenate.gov) or call 614-466-5123 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nickie J. Antonio".

Nickie J. Antonio  
Democratic Leader  
State Senator  
23<sup>rd</sup> District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Smith".

Kent Smith  
Democratic Whip  
State Senator  
21<sup>st</sup> District