



**State Representatives
Teresa Fedor & Tavia Galonski**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

May 10, 2018

Attorney General DeWine,

We write today to urge you to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) officials, who, according to State Auditor Dave Yost, knowingly engaged in criminal activity to mislead Department of Education regulators to obtain millions in taxpayer money. Taxpayers, students and their families deserve to know the truth about the extent of ECOT officials' criminal activity to defraud the state out of tens of millions of dollars.

Auditor Yost, in today's announcement, called attention not only to the alleged criminal activity of ECOT officials, but also to the gross "incompetence" of state regulators, who did nothing for years while ECOT defrauded the state out of some \$80 million. We know that by 2017, a credible source had come forward to blow the whistle on ECOT's alleged corruption, yet your office and the state auditor declined to refer this evidence to a criminal investigator.

In light of Auditor Yost's comments today, we urge your office to investigate whether state negligence contributed to ECOT's alleged criminal activity and if any state officials should be held accountable for this egregious misuse of taxpayer money.

In 2005, Democrats opposed then-Speaker Husted's shuttering of the only independent charter school watchdog, the Legislative Office of Educational Oversight (LOEO). In the subsequent decade, ECOT officials were left to run free without oversight, accountability and transparency—and taxpayers were cheated out of more than \$80 million.

Taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability. To do our part in the legislature, we must reinstate the LOEO to keep charter schools—and public officials—honest. We reiterate our call for a full investigation into the extent of the alleged criminal activity at ECOT and urge you to bring criminal charges against any ECOT and state officials - past or present - who knowingly obstructed the truth about this fraud or contributed to its growth. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Teresa Fedor in cursive.

Teresa Fedor
State Representative
House District 45

Handwritten signature of Tavia Galonski in cursive.

Tavia Galonski
State Representative
House District 35

cc: Speaker Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring
State Auditor Dave Yost

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