COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA
OHIO

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

READY NATION
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

MISSION: READINESS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

SHEPHERDING THE NEXT GENERATION
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

CHAMPIONS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

August 18, 2020

Speaker Robert R. Cupp
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Cupp,

Congratulations on your recent election as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives. Your colleagues' support is a testament to the respect you have earned through decades of leadership and service to the people of Ohio. We know you have been a strong supporter of our priority issues, particularly in the current biennial operating budget, and hope to continue on this path in the coming years.

Council for a Strong America was founded in 1996 and established an Ohio office in 2004. Council for a Strong America unites five organizations of powerful leaders preparing the next generation to be healthy, well-educated, and prepared for productive lives. Council for a Strong America includes: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation, and Champions for America's Future.

We are law enforcement leaders such as police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors who are on the front lines every day. We have seen how evidence-based programs such as high-quality early learning, home visiting, and afterschool programs have been able to help families break the cycles of poverty, drugs, and crime.

We are business leaders and executives who see first-hand that high-quality early learning and child care are two-generation solutions benefitting both the current and future workforce. We also know that children who start behind often stay behind, and that parental educational attainment and employment heavily influence the condition of a child's early years.

We are retired generals and admirals in the United States military who have seen our fighting force evolve over the past several decades. As such, we are gravely concerned that more than 70% of young adults aged 18 to 24 are unqualified for military service due to factors such as obesity, inadequate educational attainment, a history of crime or drug use, or a combination of these factors.

We are evangelical pastors and church leaders who regularly minister to families facing some of life's most-challenging circumstances: child abuse and neglect, drug or alcohol abuse, and generational poverty. Through this, we see families and communities which have benefited from the support of trained professionals in helping our congregations and communities heal.

We are coaches and athletes who have succeeded in high-level competition and frequently connect with young people. That is why we support policies that help at-risk kids become successful and productive members of society.

No matter our profession, we are preparing the next generation to be well-educated, physically fit, and prepared for productive lives. We look forward to working with you to help young Ohioans succeed.

Sincerely yours,