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ERIC D. FINGERHUT, CHANCELLOR

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Governor Ted Strickland  
Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Strickland:

In the aftermath of the tragedy at Virginia Tech, you directed me to form a task force to recommend steps to make Ohio's public and private university and college campuses as safe and secure as possible. We have worked diligently this summer to respond to your mandate, as you will see in the accompanying report.

We live in a free society and our college and university campuses are open and accessible to students, families, and to the general public. However, there are numerous steps that we can take to prevent or respond to threats. The goal of the task force was to see that the best practices are utilized on all campuses across the state and maintained throughout the years, even as personnel change and graduating students are replaced by incoming freshmen. Because campus safety is an ongoing process, the most important recommendation in this report is that you direct the Ohio Board of Regents to establish a permanent office to support best practices, monitor progress and coordinate state assistance.

I want to thank the members of the task force and the presidents of Ohio's colleges and universities for their cooperation and support in this effort. I also want to thank Attorney General Marc Dann, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health, all of whom were active participants in our task forces and our statewide summit, and have made a long-term commitment to assisting in campus safety. Without their professional help and counsel, we would not have been able to fulfill our charge from you. We will need their continued support in the months and years to come.

As Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, I want to assure you that the presidents, faculty and staff of our many, diverse colleges and universities are working hard to establish and maintain the highest level of safety and security on our campuses. However, we also are well aware that there is much work left to be done. We are committed to continuing our efforts individually and collectively.

Sincerely yours,

Eric D. Fingerhut  
Chancellor