As a member of the Financial Planning Association (FPA), a professional organization of over 23,000 members nationwide, I am writing to urge you to oppose the recent proposal to extend a sales tax on professional services and, in particular, financial planning services. I have also reached out to the Governor's office to express my opposition to such a tax as I believe it will overly burden consumers and small business professionals in Ohio.

The FPA Ohio chapters have over 700 members and are part of the largest membership organization for personal financial planning experts in the country. FPA members commit to the highest standards of professional competence, ethical conduct and clear, complete disclosure to those they serve.

The proposed sales tax would be just one more burden to my business and the services that I provide to my clients – and just one more hindrance to consumers getting the sound financial advice they so desperately need. While I support the need to balance the budget of our state, I believe that a tax like this would be harmful to small businesses like my own and the consumers that depend upon the services I provide. Not only is this bad tax policy, but it also would diminish consumer financial stability and literacy, and potentially cause long-term damage to Ohio's financial solvency.

Ohioans value individual financial security. Our children are taught this in high school. We created the Financial Literacy Implementation Committee to support enactment of Ohio Revised Code §3313.603(C)(6), which emphasizes that personal money management skills are essential for a lifetime of financial success and stability. This proposed tax would undermine the intent of this law and make it harder for financial planners to provide services to our fellow Ohioans.

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose any efforts to tax financial planning services. Thank you for the opportunity to hear my concern.