

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Neighbor,

Happy Fall, Ohio! As we enter this new season, I hope you and your family stay safe, healthy, and warm.

If you haven't yet, now is the perfect time to schedule a Flu Shot! Visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/> to find a vaccine provider near you. It's important to stay up to date on your shots to keep you, your family, and your community healthy.

This October is National Work and Family Month. No matter who you are or where you live, I know how important it is to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have a good paying job that will support you and your family. I'm proud to support legislation that will make Ohio's economy work for working families.

October 12, 2022 is the start of Early Voting for the November 8th election. If you are not able to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8th, make sure to request an absentee ballot by Nov. 5th or visit the Summit County Board of Elections Early Vote Center at 500 Grant St. Akron, Ohio 44311. Request a mail-in ballot, find your polling location, and check location hours by visiting voteohio.gov. Make your voice heard in this election and keep our democracy strong!

I am proud to be your state representative. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Emilia Strong Sykes
State Representative
Ohio House District 34

Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Call the Ohio Domestic Violence Network Hotline: 1-800-934-9840 -or- Text START to 88788

For more resources, visit: <https://www.odvn.org/find-help/>

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Democrats will always support legislation that protects survivors and victims, and holds abusers accountable.

In 2017, I introduced HB 1, which passed and became law in 2018! HB 1 ensures civil protections for victims of dating violence. I also introduced and passed HB 94, which designates February as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month".

If you or someone you know needs help, visit [odvn.org/find-help](https://www.odvn.org/find-help/) and share the hotline numbers above.



October is Safe Sleep & Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month. In Ohio, 3 babies

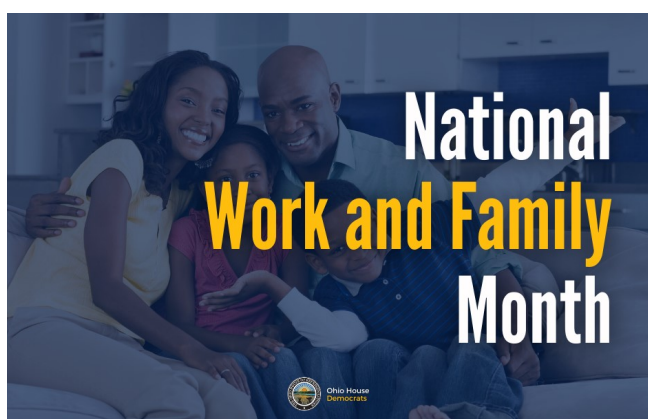
die every week due to unsafe sleep conditions. To recognize this important month, I visited the Labor & Delivery units at Akron Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, and SUMMA Health System. I had the opportunity to speak with hospital leaders, healthcare providers, and new families about the best safe sleep practices when bringing home a new baby! Remember your ABC's! Alone. Back. Crib.



October 11th, 2022 is National Coming Out Day, which is a day to celebrate all LGBTQ+ people, and to honor the act of "coming out of the closet." This day is recognized and celebrated throughout the U.S and in other countries.

Democrats support building a safe, inclusive, and loving world in which everyone can live "out" and truthfully without fear of discrimination and abuse.

To all of our LGBTQ+ brothers, sisters, and siblings, we support you, whether you're "out" or not.



October is National Work and Family Month. All Ohio families should have the opportunity to thrive. I'm working to deliver real solutions for working families, not extreme legislation meant to divide us. Democrats' Families First Agenda would protect and expand women's access to reproductive health care, reduce costs for families, keep communities safe, and invest in our children and future.

Democrats fight for Ohioans' freedom to make their own healthcare decisions

In September, a Hamilton County judge temporarily blocked Ohio's six-week abortion ban through October 12. I was glad to see Ohio's six-week abortion ban temporarily blocked, but every Ohioan deserves the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions.

I want to be clear: **the fight to protect women's freedom to control their own bodies isn't over.** I will not stop fighting until this dangerous law that bans abortions before most women even know they are pregnant is overturned once and for all.

Democrats have introduced the Reproductive Freedom Amendment, which would:

- Amend Ohio's Constitution to ensure all people have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and health care;
- Ensure that all Ohioans are able to obtain surgical and medical abortion services;
- Codify the right to access and use contraceptive devices and medications.

As Americans, we all know people should have the fundamental freedom to make decisions about their bodies and health care. Women should make their own healthcare decisions, not partisan politicians. Respecting families starts by respecting a women's freedom to have a child if and when she wants to.

I will continue to protect women's freedom to access the healthcare they need, including abortion.



Extreme legislation to make it easier for teachers to carry guns takes effect

In September, Republican legislation that allows teachers and staff to be armed in schools took effect. Law enforcement, teachers' unions, civil rights groups and students all strongly opposed this legislation.

Schools are the last place we need more guns. Arming our teachers puts students in more danger. Instead of this extreme legislation, our state should be focusing on gun safety solutions that reduce gun violence and keep our communities safe.

Ohio Democrats' commonsense gun safety bills include:

- HB 38— Repeal "Stand Your Ground"
- SB 73/HB 259— Universal background checks
- SB 76/HB 274— Restore local control to regulate firearms-related conduct
- SB 77— Ban bump stocks and other items that accelerate semi-automatic firearms
- SB 138/HB 257— Enact Extreme Risk Protection Order Act ("Red Flag" law)
- HB 262— Prohibit negligent firearm storage
- HB 360— Designate Gun Violence Awareness Month

- HB 661— Require gun trigger locks with firearm sales

I will proudly continue to support commonsense gun safety legislation that keeps communities safe, protects law enforcement, reduces violence, and protects the Second Amendment.

