

A legislative update from

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Dear Neighbor,

Last month, President Biden and Democrats delivered the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century, signing into law the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This will bring more than \$11 billion to rebuild Ohio’s infrastructure, and with it, create thousands of good paying union jobs for Ohio workers.

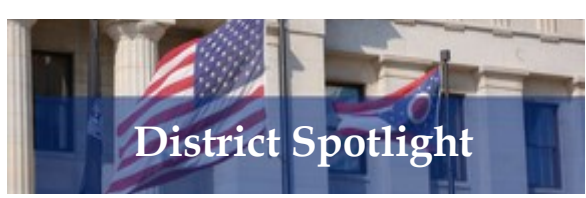
For Ohio to lead again in jobs and opportunity, I believe it is critical that we deliver these funds where they are needed most—to rebuild our roads and bridges, ensure clean drinking water for every Ohioan and invest in our future. It’s about jobs, opportunity and building an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. That’s why Ohio House Democrats prioritized our state’s infrastructure heading into the 134th General Assembly, fighting to reverse the governor’s proposed cuts to public transit funding, and delivering historic wins to expand broadband access to unserved households and clean up Ohio’s waterways. And it’s why we stand today ready to work with the Biden administration and local communities to revitalize Ohio’s infrastructure and create jobs, right here at home.

Ohio is set to receive more than \$11 billion dollars to repair our roads and bridges, replace outdated water lines in our communities and continue to invest in modern, accessible public transit systems that allow people to get to work, go to school and earn a living. Additionally, the infrastructure deal will provide every Ohioan with reliable access to high-speed internet, and ensure cleaner water, cleaner air, and more protections for our lakes and environment.

I believe the historic infrastructure bill will make life better for millions of Ohio residents, grow our economy, and restore Ohio’s promise as a leader in innovation and opportunity for all of us, not just for some of us. Ohio House Democrats are proud to be able to continue this crucial investment in our state.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Happy New Year!



This past Small Business Saturday, November 27th, College Hill welcomed five new storefronts for five local small businesses at 5852 & 5846 Hamilton Ave.

In addition to the hard work and determination of the small business owners, this was made possible by the new [OurShop program run by the College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation](#). This program was designed to help cities and their neighborhoods make smart, data-driven decisions about main street retail in a post-COVID and tech-enriched world.

Each of these businesses are women or minority owned, and provide a range of products and services from all-natural beauty to vegan cuisine.

The shop owners also held a successful Sip & Shop Event for the holidays!



Last month, the Ohio House passed two controversial Republican-sponsored bills that would make Ohioans less safe. HB 99 would allow school districts

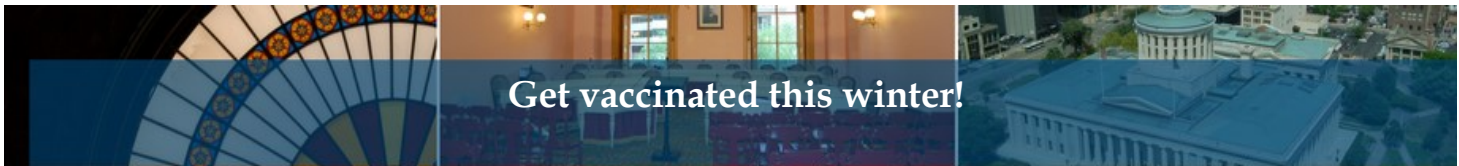
to arm teachers in the classroom without adequate training or safe storage requirements, and HB 227 would eliminate concealed weapon training and safety standards, including penalties for failing to notify police of a concealed weapon during a stop. Both of these bills would make schools and communities less safe and fail to tackle the root causes of gun violence in Ohio communities.

Teachers and law enforcement are opposed to bringing more guns into schools. A 2018 survey found that 80 percent of teachers were “strongly opposed” to having armed faculty in schools. Ohio’s Fraternal Order of Police noted that the

minimal training required by HB 99 is significantly less than the hundreds of hours of training required for police officers. Democrats expressed similar concerns that HB 99 only requires 20 hours of training for armed teachers during committee hearings.

Recent research indicates that states that pass legislation to eliminate permits and training see increased instances of gun violence. I believe we can and should do more to reduce gun violence while still respecting the rights of gun owners. It’s what the vast majority of Ohioans want us to do, and what they called for us to do when they urged lawmakers to “do something” following the 2019 tragedy in Dayton.

Ohio House Democrats continue our calls for commonsense gun safety measures like safe storage requirements, extreme risk protection orders, and universal background checks, proven solutions that a vast majority of Ohioans support and are already working in other states to reduce gun violence and keep our kids and communities safe. I will continue to push for these commonsense, balanced solutions in the new year.



In these winter months, it is more important than ever to get vaccinated. The CDC recommends that everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the COVID-19 virus. Children are now eligible to receive the vaccine, and boosters are now available for anyone who has already received the vaccine. To find a vaccine provider near you, visit gettheshot.ohio.coronavirus.gov.

While health experts and the Biden administration continue to recommend vaccines to protect the health and safety of Ohioans, House Republicans recently passed House Bill 218, legislation that would prohibit schools, universities and employers from requiring students or employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. It would also bar public and private entities from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for any reason, including admittance for events and concerts. I believe that this short-sighted bill will only prolong the pandemic and threaten the health and safety of Ohioans. Our state continues to lag the nation for coronavirus vaccination, ranking 41st among states. More than 25,000 Ohioans have died from COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated not only helps protect the health of you and your loved ones, but it also ensures that businesses can keep operating and workers can be safe on the job. Ohio’s major business and health organizations oppose banning vaccine requirements, as vaccine hesitancy would slow Ohio’s economic recovery by threatening the health of workers, shutting down businesses and causing uncertainty among consumers.

Do your part and get vaccinated today. Together, we can beat this coronavirus, save lives, put people back to work, and get Ohio moving in the right direction again.



11 Primary Sponsored Bills & 15 Primary Sponsored Resolutions Introduced in 2021

- [HB 34](#), to require schools to transmit students' records within 5 days, was informally passed in the House four times and awaits a formal floor vote.




Reps. Kelly, Ingram, Denson, and Miranda host Ohio Promise: Opportunity Agenda Town Hall in Cincinnati

Committee and Caucus Changes

- Representative Ingram was appointed to the House Finance Committee
- Representative Ingram was appointed to the Federally Subsidized Housing Study Commission
- Representatives Ingram and Hicks-Hudson were selected as the new Co-Chairs of the Black Maternal Health Caucus.



Rep Ingram and members of OLBC pictured with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia Fudge, at National Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Conference




OHIO HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

36

DEMOCRATIC-SPONSORED BILLS PASSED

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW




11,880

CONSTITUENTS HELPED THROUGH CASEWORK

DEMOCRATS DELIVERED KEY PROVISIONS IN THE STATE'S BUDGETS, INCLUDING...

- ✓ Fair School Funding
- ✓ Reversing proposed public transit cuts and delivering historic funding levels
- ✓ Broadband expansion
- ✓ Publicly funding child care increased to 142% of FPL, 150% for special needs children
- ✓ Increased funding for student aid programs to make college more affordable



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