

# A Legislative Update from Representative Richard D. Brown

March 2022



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this finds you and your family safe and healthy. March was a great month for House District 20. I announced new jobs, funding for our first responders, support for our schools, and more. Looking ahead, the Ohio Legislature will be working on the Capital Budget, which provides legislators the opportunity to fund local projects in our communities. I look forward to sharing details about the proposed projects in our district soon.

Enclosed you will find a resource card with contact information for my office, as well as state and local resources. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office to share your thoughts on state issues or if I can be of any assistance. I'm proud to serve you and our community in the Ohio House and will keep fighting for you and your family every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Brown'.

Richard Brown  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 20

## GEAR Up Program at Reynoldsburg Schools

Representative Brown announced \$400,000 was approved to support the Ohio GEAR UP Grant, which prepares and supports students in obtaining postsecondary education. Reynoldsburg City Schools is one of six school districts selected by the Ohio Department of Education to participate in this program.

**“The funds released will benefit the students at Reynoldsburg City Schools as they get ready for their future,” said Rep. Brown. “By providing additional counseling and advising services, we are helping students succeed and meet their higher education goals right here in Ohio.”**

## Supporting Ohio's First Responders

Representative Brown announced \$320,821 to reimburse the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund for costs associated with the state post-traumatic stress fund. This program was created with the passage of House Bill 308 of the 133rd General Assembly, of which Representative Brown was a co-sponsor, to support police officers and firefighters by paying for lost wages as well as medical and administrative costs associated with disability from post-traumatic stress disorder.

**“House Bill 308 is one of the most important bills I have voted on and I’m proud to support Ohio’s police officers and firefighters,” said Rep. Brown. “Our first responders keep our communities safe and we owe it to them to provide them with the benefits needed to take care of their mental well-being.”**

## In Solidarity with Ukraine

In March, the Ohio House of Representatives passed House Resolution 195, which condemns the unprovoked and unjustified Russian war in Ukraine. Representative Brown is proud to have co-sponsored this resolution to support the Ukrainian people and Ohio's Ukrainian American community.



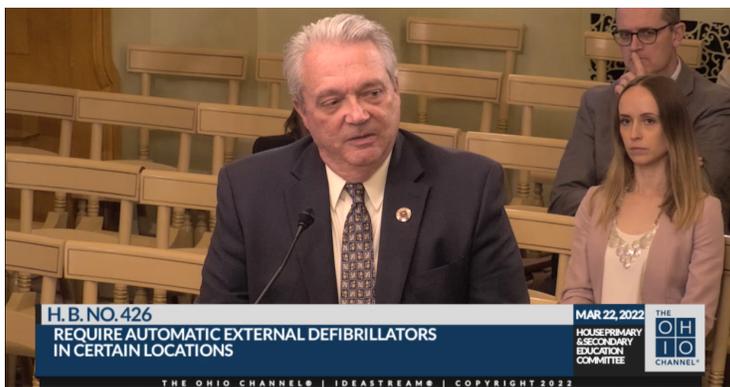
## Sponsor Testimony on HB 426

Representative Brown provided sponsor testimony on his legislation, House Bill (HB) 426, which requires AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) to be placed in schools and public recreational facilities.

**“It’s important that all schools and facilities where our children are participating in physical activity and sports be equipped with an AED,” said Rep. Brown. “These devices are safe, easy to operate, and accurate. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) affects nearly 350,000 Americans a year, with only a third receiving timely treatment from CPR or an AED. By passing this legislation, we are going to save lives of students across the state.”**

An AED is an “automatic external defibrillator,” which is a device that analyzes heart rate and calculates what electric shock level, if any, is needed to establish a consistent working rhythm in the heart of the person suffering from SCA.

SCA is the leading cause of sudden death in young athletes. SCA can be effectively treated if an AED is utilized within five minutes of the incident occurring. According to a study in the Journal of Athletic Training, “the best way to prevent death from SCA is early defibrillation and survival declines by 7-10% for each minute that defibrillation is delayed.” SCA affects nearly 350,000 Americans a year, with only a third receiving timely treatment from CPR or an AED.



## FREE at home COVID-19 tests

You can now order 2 sets of 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. If you already ordered during the first round, you can now order a second set. **Go to [COVIDTests.gov](https://COVIDTests.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.**

## Office of Drug Policy bill passes Committee

Representative Brown's House Bill (HB) 328, which creates the Office of Drug Policy within the Governor’s Cabinet, passed out of the House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee by a unanimous, bipartisan vote. The Office of Drug Policy will bring a comprehensive, statewide approach to tackling the opioid crisis in Ohio. The Office of Drug Policy will serve as a coordinated, unified entity for community officials, law enforcement officers, social workers, and local communities to seek out best practices, available grants, state rules, new education programs, and more anti-drug abuse resources. HB 328 now awaits a floor vote in the House.

**“By passing this bill and creating the Office of Drug Policy, Ohio would send a clear message that we are serious about ending the opioid epidemic,” said Rep. Brown. “I look forward to seeing this bill brought before the House for a floor vote soon and hope to see it pass again with bipartisan, unanimous support. Ohioans across the state who are struggling with addiction need our help, and they need action now.”**

## New Jobs Coming to Canal Winchester

A new Walgreen Company project, expected to be operational by the end of 2022, will use technology and automation to streamline the company’s fulfillment process for online orders. With a nearly \$20 million investment, the project is expected to create 200 new, full-time jobs (not transfers), primarily Pharmacy Technicians and Assistant Technicians, and \$8.5 million in new annual payroll in Canal Winchester. Walgreens will be creating regional micro-fulfillment facilities around the country to help modernize product distribution and the Canal Winchester center will be a part of the new program.

**“I’m excited to see the Walgreen Company investing in our community,” said Rep. Brown. “This will provide our neighbors with increased access to health and wellness services, including prescription medications and vaccinations. Their new project will also create 200 full-time positions in Canal Winchester, which will bring greater economic opportunities for people in our district. This project will be part of an existing facility and while I am glad to see these jobs, I hope new, physical expansion by any company is done in a responsible, well-considered manner that respects our community.”**



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