



June 8, 2021

Statehouse News

From the Office of State Representative *Bride Rose Sweeney*



A Note from Rep. Sweeney

Dear Neighbor,

The last two months at the Ohio Statehouse have been a whirlwind. From a fever-pitched battle for a fair and rational school funding formula to the introduction of another restrictive voting bill, there has been no shortage of work to do!

As efforts to craft a balanced state budget move forward, I fought hard to ensure that my House Bill 1, the Fair School Funding Plan, was included in the version passed by the House. H.B. 1 offers a historic, once in a lifetime opportunity to build a better future for Ohio's children, and their children's children. It uses Ohio data and well-researched best practices to provide for a modern and holistic education of a child today. The legislation sailed ahead in bipartisan fashion with a vote of 70 to 27.

I am incredibly honored to carry the torch on the Fair School Funding Plan, but I also am deeply disappointed that my colleagues in the Ohio Senate have chosen to gut these provisions in their version of the budget. Not all hope is lost, however! Please make your voice heard to the Senate during the continued legislative process, especially if you feel as strongly about this issue as I do. Visit ohiosenate.gov to contact state senators and the Senate President and ask them to support the Fair School Funding Plan as passed by the House. Future generations of Ohioans depend on it.

Other than school funding, another pivotal topic before the General Assembly is voting rights. You may have heard about [House Bill 294](#), the so-called "Ohio Election Security and Modernization Act." Most of us, no matter where we come from or who we vote for, want a seamless and accessible voting experience, not new and unnecessary barriers to making our voices heard. I have long supported bringing Ohio's election laws into the 21st century, but House Bill 294 is a step in the wrong direction.

This bill adds new, needless restrictions that could only result in fewer options for voters. In the last election, nearly one million voters in Cuyahoga County had to rely on one location to drop off their ballot. That's not right, and fixing it shouldn't be controversial - but H.B. 294 would further limit drop boxes and even slash one of the most used days of early voting. While the bill is currently unacceptable, I will continue to work across the aisle to protect voting rights and expand access for every citizen of the great State of Ohio.

After the first hearing of H.B. 294, my colleagues and I embarked on a listening tour to hear from Ohioans across the state. We've held town halls in Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron, Cleveland, and Toledo with more to come. Given the national political context, it is so important to listen to the people on any changes to our election laws. I was so glad to see such a broad coalition of individuals at our Cleveland event, and I hope you will continue to keep an eye on this bill.

All the best,

Bride Rose Sweeney



Pictured: Freedom to Vote Town Hall in Cleveland on Saturday, June 5th.

Legislative Spotlight: Three Bipartisan Bills Passed!



Pictured: Speaking on the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives in support of my bipartisan bills.

I was recently able to pass three of my bipartisan bills through the Ohio House of Representatives in one day. As a member of a superminority party, I feel extremely fortunate to have accomplished this feat. You can learn more about those bills below!

House Bill 68 is my bipartisan legislation to ensure that prime contractors are paid promptly and construction projects can move forward across the State of Ohio. Some Ohio contractors have to wait 60, 90, or even 150 days to receive payment after they finish a construction project. HB 68 aims to get cash flowing from the top down to spur economic development, keep construction projects moving, and ensure that workers can count on prompt payment. Although most project owners pay their bills on time, this bill is intended to get at bad actors.

House Bill 77 is my bipartisan legislation to allow boards of trustees at state institutions of higher education to meet virtually if they adopt an electronic communication policy. The pandemic proved that virtual meetings can and do work. Last year after my HB 404 passed into temporary law and gave governments the ability to do this, public meetings saw record levels of participation. I believe that we can have both accountability and flexibility, and this legislation strikes that balance. HB 77 is a small step in the long journey of truly modernizing the State of Ohio as we update our laws to better serve the people.

House Bill 185 raises awareness for bleeding disorders and passed unanimously through the Ohio House. Bleeding disorders have painful and costly effects on those who live with them every day of their lives. They can occur in anyone and can take years to accurately diagnose. I am honored to carry this bill forward on behalf of the bleeding disorder community because they deserve to have a voice as they continue to fight to increase awareness, lower healthcare costs, and improve quality of care. The Northern Ohio Hemophilia Foundation is the second oldest organization of its kind and is located in my district.

Short Survey: I want to hear from you!

Under the American Rescue Plan Act, Ohio is set to receive \$5.68 billion in federal funds. The state legislature has discretion on how that money is spent. Help me understand your top priorities by filling out this [survey](#)! It's currently open until **Wednesday, June 9th at 5pm**.

Resources

COVID-19 Vaccines

- All Ohioans aged 16 and older are now eligible to make an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- All the available COVID-19 vaccines have been proven safe and effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated with the first vaccine available to you can help protect you and others.
- Visit gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov to locate a provider and book an appointment near you.
- In addition, a list of providers statewide is available online at vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Eviction Assistance

- The pandemic has made it harder for many people to make rent or mortgage payments.
- The Cleveland Legal Aid Society may be of assistance at www.lascliv.org or (216) 687-1900.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL
FREE EVICTION HELP

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HOUSING OR AN EVICTION?

You may qualify for free legal representation!
Call Legal Aid at (216) 687-1900 | Visit FreeEvictionHelp.org for more info.

United Way | The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

- You may also seek a local rent assistance grant at (833) 377-RENT (7368) or neorenthelp.org.

NORTHEAST OHIO RENT HELP

IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE MAKING YOUR RENT PAYMENTS DUE TO COVID-19, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.

833-377-RENT (7368)
NEORENTHelp.ORG

CHN Housing Partners | EDEN

FUNDED BY: [Logos for funding organizations]

Ohio House District 14 Resource Guide (Available [HERE](#))

- My office has compiled an extensive resource guide to help my constituents with:
 - COVID-19 Guidance and Helplines
 - Economic Support
 - Food Assistance
 - Small Business Assistance
 - Educational Materials
 - Employment Resources
 - Multilingual Resources
 - Ways to Donate
 - Mental Health Resources
 - Utilities
- Please share this guide and contact my office if you have any suggestions for additions.

Cuyahoga County

- Local governments are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Cuyahoga has responded to the crisis by launching its [Small Business Resource Center](#), converting its website to an information hub, and holding regular briefings at the County [Board of Public Health](#)

Unemployment Compensation

- If you were previously denied normal compensation, you may be eligible for PUA.** Apply online at pua.unemployment.ohio.gov.
- If you are able to return to work, you should still be eligible to be compensated for the weeks you were laid off.
- To apply for normal unemployment, visit unemployment.ohio.gov or call 1-877-644-6562.
 - Use **mass layoff code 2000180** to expedite your claim.
 - If you have already filed and did not use the code, do not reapply.
- Those waiting for unemployment benefits may also qualify for additional benefits, including the Supplemental Unemployment Assistance Program (SNAP). To learn more, visit benefits.ohio.gov.

COVID-19 Information and Prevention

- Have questions about COVID-19?
 - Call: 833-427-5634
 - Visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov

I have been working hard to be a reliable source of timely and accurate information. If you are interested in **regular summaries of the Governor's press conferences**, please contact my office or use this [link](#).

Please stay healthy, and don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you ever have any questions or concerns. I can always be reached at Rep14@ohiohouse.gov and (614) 466-3350.

Office Contact Information
 Phone: (614) 466-3350
 Fax: (614) 715-3910
 Email: Rep14@ohiohouse.gov
 Mail: 77 S. High St., 10th Floor
 Columbus, OH 43215
 Website: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/bride-rose-sweeney>



Copyright © 2021 State Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Forwarded this message? [Subscribe](#).

