



A legislative update from
STATE REP. ALLISON RUSSO
HOUSE DISTRICT 07



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From the desk of Rep. Russo

Dear Neighbor,

Happy June! During the last week of May, Governor DeWine called for a special session to ensure that President Biden would be on the November ballot. Instead of a clean bill, Republicans used their gerrymandered supermajority to attack some of Ohioans most sacred fundamental freedoms. HB 1 is a preemptive strike against this year's citizen-led ballot initiative to reform the redistricting process in Ohio. GOP politicians know that the Citizens, Not Politicians reform, which is on-track to come before voters in November, will begin dismantling their [unconstitutional grip on power](#). With the Legislature unwilling to represent the best interests of its constituents, it is critical for Ohio's voters to champion these changes to the redistricting process. The deadline to register in time to vote in the next election is October 7, 2024 and you can do so at olvr.ohiosos.gov.

On June 19th, we observe Juneteenth, a day to celebrate African American freedom and achievements, while looking at our own self-development as Americans and our respect for the freedom and liberty of all cultures. Democrats continue to prioritize building up Black families and all Ohioans with legislation centered on health, housing, education, jobs, criminal justice reform, and supporting minority owned businesses.

June is also Pride Month! No one should live in fear of being bullied, fired, or otherwise discriminated against simply because of who they are or who they love; and while the road to equality is fraught with challenges, we take this time to celebrate our differences and take joy in knowing that love conquers all.

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

Sincerely,

C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 7



**GUN
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH**

June 2024

June is Gun Violence Prevention Month. The gun violence epidemic in America is out of control. Every day, we hear about a shooting happening in our communities. House Democrats are committed to sponsoring, advocating, and voting for legislation like [HB 170](#), which would prevent dangerous individuals from acquiring firearms, and [HB 175](#), a bill that would require the safe storage of firearms. These bills, and others sponsored by Democrats, will make our communities safer and are crucial first steps to ending gun violence in America.



**Two years since
Roe v. Wade
was overturned**

It's been two years since Roe v. Wade was overturned and more than half of Americans on both sides of the aisle continue to express support for abortion care. House Democrats will continue to [protect the will of Ohio's voters](#) and their access to healthcare, sponsoring legislation such as [HB 502](#), which would protect access to assistive reproductive technology, and [HB 343](#), which would enshrine reproductive autonomy and healthcare privacy.

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Ohio House Democrats Introduce the LEAP Initiative

Last month, Ohio House Democrats introduced the [Learning & Education Advancement Package \(LEAP\) Initiative](#), legislation to reaffirm K-12 education as a Democratic priority, setting goals and standards for our education system prior to the next school year for for-profit charter school oversight, private school voucher accountability, investments in early childhood education, and support for public schools, educators, and students.

The vast majority of Ohio students are enrolled in public schools and, as such, it is imperative that Ohio schools provide safe learning environments that are equitable and supportive of these students' diverse needs. Some of the K-12 education House bills being highlighted in the LEAP Initiative include:

- [Free Meals in Public Schools – HB 408](#)
Requires public schools to provide meals and related services to students regardless of their ability to pay.
- [Increasing Teacher Salaries – HB 411](#)
Increases the minimum salary for teachers to \$50K.
- [Private School Accountability & Transparency Act – HB 575](#)
Requires financial accountability, fair testing transparency, and other standards for private schools where at least 25% of students receive state vouchers.
- [Charter School Oversight Act – HB 581](#)
Requires parental notification of charter school report cards and online performance comparisons between charter schools and their local public school.
- [Universal Preschool Act – HB 595](#)
Creates an optional, half-day, public preschool program and requires free, full day kindergarten.



In the District

May brought warmer days, blooming flowers, and new opportunities for community events and advocacy. Rep. Russo took this time to meet with constituents and policy champions:

- While touring the Ohio Statehouse, Rep. Russo met with the 4th grade class from Larson Middle School to discuss Ohio's political process and the ability of each Ohioan—no matter their age— to enact change.
- Rep. Russo met with March of Dimes to discuss the status of Ohio's maternal and infant health policies and the legislation necessary to support Ohio's moms and babies.
- Speaking at The Ohio State University's Glenn College Women of POWER reception, Rep. Russo welcomed the next generation of women in leadership positions.
- Meeting with dentists and dental hygienists across Ohio, Rep. Russo learned about the oral health concerns facing Ohioans.
- Rep. Russo met with the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association to discuss the critical issues impacting the ability of EMS professionals to deliver life-saving care to Ohioans.
- Speaking to advocates for Moms Demand Action, Rep. Russo confronted Ohio's gun violence epidemic and the legislative actions necessary to implement common sense gun policies supported by a majority of Ohioans.



June News from Rep. Russo

For all news from Rep. Russo's office, please visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/c-allison-russo/news>