



A legislative update from  
**MINORITY WHIP JESSICA E. MIRANDA**  
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Dear Neighbor,

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. After a tumultuous past few years where we have all struggled to cope with the pandemic, mental health care is more important than ever. House Democrats are focused on enacting legislation that ensures that every Ohioan, no matter their background, is able to access quality mental health care.

Some of our bills focused on mental health include:

- HB 602—To ensure mental health access for all those who voluntarily seek help;
- HB 363—To provide mental health services in the event of a pandemic, natural disaster, or other emergency;
- HB 41—To create additional safety and security measures for mental health professionals;
- HB 453—To create the “Recovery is Beautiful” license plate, to support individuals recovering from mental health or substance abuse issues;
- HB 591—To designate the last week in February as “Eating Disorders Awareness Week.”

Democrats are working for you, and working for Ohio. During this Mental Health Awareness Month, be sure to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

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

Sincerely,

**JESSICA E. MIRANDA**  
Minority Whip, 28<sup>th</sup> District  
614-466-8120  
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Check out Rep. [Miranda speaking about her experience with sexual abuse](#), and her fight to extend Ohio's statute of limitations for child sexual abuse cases. [#SAAM2022](#)

### Member Bill Spotlight

- Rep. Miranda & Rep. Lepore-Hagan to introduce constitutional amendment guaranteeing [reproductive freedom](#) in Ohio
- HB 291—named a portion of St. Rt. I-275 [“Officer Kaia L. Grant Memorial Highway”](#)

**Ohio's laws shouldn't protect rapists.**  
**End the statute of limitations for rape.**

Urge your lawmaker to support HB 199 and HB 266.  
Call 614-466-4308

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## Democrats condemn introduction of 'Don't Say Gay' bill

Democrats condemned the recent introduction of [House Bill \(HB\) 616](#), the Ohio Republican version of Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' law. Under HB 616, schools could not "teach, use, or provide any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity" in kindergarten through third grade. Additionally, older students could not be taught "any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity in any manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards."

HB 616 is simply the latest draconian censorship bill introduced this General Assembly by House Republicans. Republicans also sponsored HB 327, which would make "failing to fairly present both sides of a political or ideological belief or position" conduct unbecoming of an Ohio educator, prompting [widespread alarm](#) from teachers and concerned parents. HB 327 has received five hearings in the House State and Local Government committee, and was nearing a committee vote until the Republican bill sponsor [made inaccurate and anti-Semitic comments about the Holocaust](#) during an interview.



While Republicans continue [their attacks on LGBTQ+ Ohioans](#), Democrats are calling for action on the [Ohio Fairness Act](#), bipartisan legislation that would protect LGBTQ+ Ohioans from discrimination in employment, housing and accommodations. The Ohio Fairness Act was introduced in March 2021, but has yet to receive a single hearing.



## Redistricting Update

The Ohio Redistricting Commission failed to adopt a new set of constitutional and fair state legislative maps by the May 6 Ohio Supreme Court deadline. Amid loud chants for fair maps from Ohioans, the majority of commissioners instead voted to adopt the third set of legislative maps, which were already ruled unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court on March 16.

Democrats had moved to adopt a modified version of the Ohio [House](#) and [Senate](#) maps drafted by the independent mapmakers in March. The independent state legislative maps are more compact than any maps adopted by the Commission, follow the requirements in the Constitution and the court orders, and reflect the statewide voting preferences of Ohioans.

In its last ruling, the Ohio Supreme Court emphasized that the independent mapmakers' plan was a good starting point for the Commission to comply with the Court's order. Though Republicans could not identify a single constitutional violation in the proposed plan, majority commissioners nevertheless rejected the motion to adopt their plan. Since the Ohio Redistricting Commission failed to comply with the Supreme Court's order, the Court could choose to hold the Commissioners in contempt.

Democrats are still working every day to ensure that Ohioans of every background are represented and that their voices are heard.

Watch Ohioans chant for fair maps at ORC meeting - [video](#).



## May News From Rep. Miranda

For all news from Rep. Miranda's office, please visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/jessica-e-miranda/news>