



STATE REP. CASEY WEINSTEIN

HOUSE DISTRICT 34

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August at The Ohio Statehouse!

Dear Neighbor,
Happy August and happy back to school to all of our District 34 parents, teachers, students, and school staff! As the House continues to be on summer break, I want to take this opportunity to continue to do my best to keep you updated on key events over in Columbus and in our district.

In Columbus, the Ohio Ballot Board convened to finalize the language for the Citizens Not Politicians ballot issue, which voters will decide on this November. Unfortunately, the language that was decided upon was decidedly biased, aimed to mislead voters unfamiliar with the proposal. This decision by the gerrymandered supermajority underscores the need for politicians to stay out of the map making process, as they seem determined to cling to their power. It will be up to the people of Ohio to determine the future for Ohio's redistricting process, and I encourage everyone to read [the full language of the ballot issue](#) to form your own opinion.



In the aftermath of the severe storms that recently struck Northeast Ohio, I want to update you on our ongoing efforts to address the situation in the 34th District. Following the storms, I, along with other Northeast Representatives, met with Governor DeWine to advocate for a state of emergency declaration. While a state of emergency was issued in response to the August 6th storm, we have yet to see a similar declaration for the August 8th flooding, which has left many of our residents struggling. The Summit County delegation is actively gathering information through the Summit County Emergency Management Agency to support our case for this crucial declaration, as it would hopefully enable us to secure additional assistance for our community.

Additionally, I, alongside some of my colleagues, sent a letter to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) urging them to take immediate action for the thousands of residents who remain without power. We are calling for measures such as rebates for affected individuals and a thorough review of long-term solutions to ensure a more reliable power grid in the future.

As your State Representative, I remain committed to advocating for the support and resources our community needs during this challenging time. Thank you for your continued patience and resilience. Be sure to reach out to my office if you have any thoughts or concerns. Hearing from all of you is incredibly important to me and my staff.

Like always, it is a pleasure to serve you at the Statehouse.

Sincerely,



If you have experienced **flood damage** due to the storms, scan the QR code to report it to the Summit County Emergency Management Agency before the **August 21st** deadline!

Legislative Update: HB 33 - Funding Our Public Schools

The Operating Budget passed last year included some significant wins for teachers, students, and families. As we are all preparing to head back to school, I would like to highlight a few improvements you may notice this year:

- **Free School Lunch for every student 185% of the Federal Poverty Level**
 - HB 33 made school lunches completely FREE to all students who previously qualified for reduced-price lunches. More students more than ever, now have access to free, nutritious school lunches every day!
- **Increased Teacher Minimum Salary from \$30k to \$35k**
 - While this should be much higher, I hope that this small win on the budget is just the start of a continuous trend of increasing teacher pay.
- **Funding to the Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship Program**
 - The budget allocated \$15 million to the "Grow Your Own Teacher" Scholarship Program, an initiative aimed to help districts impacted by the teacher shortage and increase teacher retention.
 - This scholarship program assists in recruitment of teachers and provides scholarships to aspiring teachers before or after college who commit to teaching in a qualifying school. The program helps incentive individuals to become teachers within their home district.
- **Expanded Ohio's Tax-Free Holiday**
 - This year the tax-free holiday lasted from Tuesday, July 30th through Thursday, August 8th. No state or local tax was charged on any tangible personal property that was worth less than \$500.
- **Increased Funding to Public Schools Through the Cupp-Patterson Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP).**
 - This legislature continued implementation of the Cupp-Patterson Fair School Funding Plan by increasing the general phase-in and disadvantaged pupil impact aid phase-in percentages from 33.33% in FY 2023 to 50% in FY 2024 and 66.67% in FY 2025 as well as using FY 2022 data rather than 2018 data. A new funding The Fair school funding formula was implemented.
 - This funding helps schools in smaller communities keep up with larger school districts and makes up for differences in local taxpayer funds through state funding to give every student an equal opportunity to access high-quality education no matter their zip code.

Community Condolence



Megan Elizabeth Keleman,
9/6/1998 - 8/14/2024

I want to extend my deepest condolences to the entire Stow Community, and particularly to the friends and family of Megan Keleman. Megan tragically lost her life to gun violence on August 14th, 2024. Her loss has been deeply felt by the Stow Community, as she was a kind, compassionate young woman who made a deep impact on her entire community and everyone who crossed her path. May she rest in peace.

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