

REPRESENTATIVE Sara Carruthers

Ohio House of Representatives
47th House District



Dear Neighbors and Friends,

It is an honor to be your representative for the 47th House District. We are well into the 135th General Assembly, and there are many exciting updates!

This newsletter will serve as a resource to keep you informed on legislation, committee hearings, and pressing issues being discussed in Columbus. If you have any questions, need assistance with state agencies, or would like to schedule an appointment in-district, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at rep47@ohiohouse.gov.

God Bless,

Sara Carruthers
State Representative
Ohio's 47th House District



General Updates:

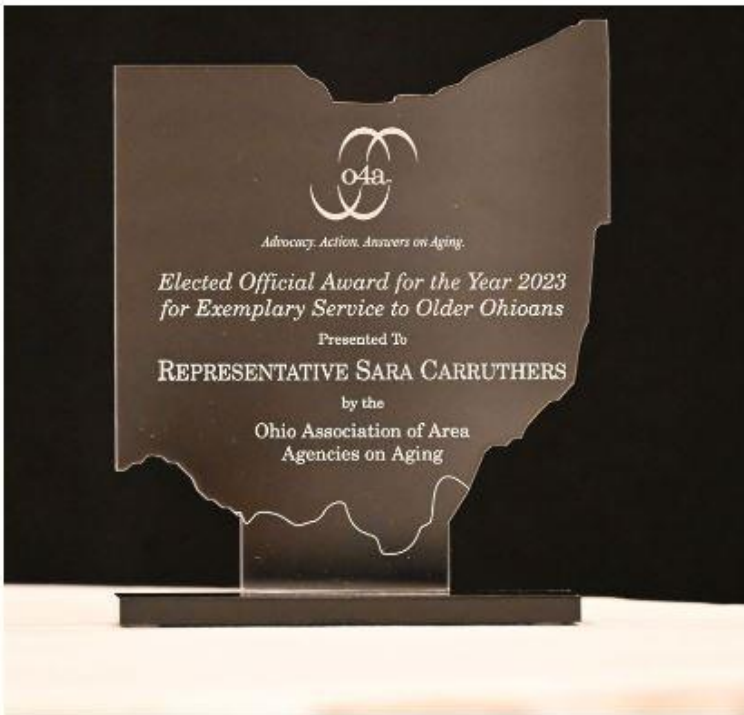
Operating Budget:

I was proud to serve as the chairwoman of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. My colleague's coordinated efforts to pass House Bill 33, the State Operating Budget for fiscal years 2024-25, will help countless Ohioans. The budget commits resources to our priorities of protecting families, educating our communities, and growing our workforce. Read more about the budget [here](#).

Legislator of the Year:

I was honored to be named the legislator of the year by the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Elected Official for the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Both groups of people are near and dear to my heart, and championing legislation for these marginalized groups has been a highlight for me in the legislature.



Capital Budget, what is it and how does it benefit our district?

My colleagues and I are currently working on the Capital Budget, a biannual bill that appropriates resources for community projects, rebuilding infrastructure, and more.

I am hopeful that funding for restoration projects and new projects will have a great impact on Hamilton and the greater Southwest region over the next few months.



Property Tax Update:

Due to historic property tax increases, elected officials on the state and local level are working together to bring relief to Ohioans.

These bills are House Bill(s):

- [1](#)
- [60](#)
- [90](#)
- [187](#)
- [263](#)
- [274](#)

Senate Bill(s)

- [2](#)
- [120](#)
- [134](#)
- [136](#)
- [153](#)

I have been working diligently with the Department of Taxation, Butler County's Commissioner's, Auditor's office, and other county auditor offices to address this issue. I will do everything in my power to ensure the best possible outcome for my constituents and others across the state.



My Legislation:

Priority Legislation:

House Bill 258 increases fines for retailers continuously selling tobacco and vaping products to minors. This legislation will help cut down on youth possessing vapes, as it has had a huge impact on the health and well-being of the youth in our district and the school systems currently serving them. The bill passed with strong bipartisan support in the House and awaits its first hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Parents' Bill of Rights, **House Bill 8**, is priority legislation that will protect the ability and authority of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their minor child. Under this legislation, schools will be required to inform parents of any mental, emotional, or physical health-related changes in their child and prohibited from encouraging students to hide these changes from their parents.

House Bill 8 also gives parents the right to opt-out and remove their child from a class if they do not feel comfortable with the material being taught. This legislation was successfully passed out of the House and awaits hearings in the Senate Education Committee.

Bills in House Committee:

House Bill 291 - ensures that insurance companies continue to fill the medication that best works for the patient instead of forcing them to switch to another brand or generic brand because the insurance company no longer wants to pay for the original one.

If you need immediate assistance, there are several ways you can ask for property tax relief, especially on a fixed income. You can also submit a formal complaint with your county auditor's office to have your property specifically re-evaluated.

https://tax.ohio.gov/static/forms/real_property/dte_105a.pdf

https://tax.ohio.gov/static/forms/real_property/DTE_105C.pdf

Once you have completed these forms please send them to your local county Auditor's office:

Address: 130 High St. #3 Hamilton, OH 45011

Phone: (513) 887-3154

Please contact the Auditor's office if you need additional help filling out the forms.

Second Amendment Rights Co-Sponsored Legislation:

Throughout my tenure in the House, I have voted to affirm and protect our Second Amendment rights.

133rd GA –

Co-Sponsored **S.B. 175** – Grant Civil Immunity – Injury, death, loss from carrying handguns (*The Stand your ground, Bill*)

- Effective Date: April 6th, 2021

House Bill 356 - will allow student athletes 19 and younger to have their heart monitored and tested each year before entering into their sport of choice. The purpose of this legislation is to mitigate sudden cardiac death in young athletes.

House Bill 352 - will convene a behavioral health panel to collect data on the adverse effects of trauma in youth and create a path forward To set them up for success in adulthood.

House Bill 379 - asks that public road crews check for a microchip on deceased animals along the side of the road so the animals' families may find closure in the loss of their pet.



Co-Sponsored **H.B. 174** – Modifies weapons Law, including concealed carry changes (Constitutional Carry, Bill).

134th GA –

Co-Sponsored **S.B. 215** – Regards concealed handgun licensee duties (Conceal Carry Protections)

- Effective Date: June 13th, 2022

135th GA –

Co-Sponsored **H.B. 272** – Allow conceal carry in certain buildings with a courtroom.

- Passed by the House, waiting on the Senate

Co-Sponsored **H.B. 233** – Enact the Self Defense Protection Act (Similar to stand your ground)

- In House Criminal Justice Committee

Legislative Highlights:

H.C.R. No. 12 – expresses that Ohio Stands with Texas. Denounce open-border policy.

H.R. No. 198 – expresses support for consumer choice in the automotive marketplace

H. R. No. 310 – condemns President Xi Jinping's support of Russia in Russia – Ukraine War.

As I continue my work in the state legislature, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you need assistance with a state issue or would like to share your thoughts with me. I also encourage you to follow my social media for updates on what's happening in Butler County and our community.