


A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. WILLIS E. BLACKSHEAR JR.**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 39



 @willisb\_jr

 @Willis E Blackshear Jr.

 @willisblackshearjr

 (614) 466-1607

 rep39@ohiohouse.gov



Dear Neighbor,

It is a great honor to be able to serve you through my work at the Ohio House of Representatives. I wanted to check in with everyone, and share some updates as we enter into this Lame Duck period in the Ohio Legislature.

Lame duck is the period of time after an election and before the swearing in of the elected members. This year, lame duck is November 9 through December 31. While this may seem like an unimportant time period, any bills that do not pass before the end of the year “die”, and must be reintroduced in a future General Assembly to receive further consideration. This means that there will be a lot of bills to be on the lookout for over the next several weeks. I recently testified in front of the House Primary and Secondary Education committee for HB 619– a bill aimed at giving students mental health days. In the coming weeks I will testify on HB 557: Create Paul Laurence Dunbar License Plate, and HB 671 Designate Jessie Gooding Highway. Please feel free to contact me at 614-466-1607 or rep39@ohiohouse.gov if you have any concerns or questions about legislation.

Aside from the legislative updates, there are a lot of amazing things happening within my district that I have been able to witness and take part in recently. We have seen a number of great small businesses that have experienced success and growth in my district. On top of that our educators are doing a tremendous job in helping to overcome the COVID-19 learning gap at our local schools.

I am incredibly excited for the future of the amazing people and organizations in this district, and I will continue to do my best to serve you all as we close out this year strong!

Sincerely,

Willis E. Blackshear Jr.  
Ohio State Representative, District 39



Rep. Blackshear and Rep. Miranda present sponsor testimony for HB 619: Allow School Districts to permit Student Mental Health Days in front of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee on Tuesday November 15th.



Rep. Blackshear presents commendations to the owners of restaurants at West Social Tap & Table on 110 W Third St. in Dayton.



## District Updates

### Mayor Mims Teen Youth Summit

On October 26th Rep. Blackshear presented and spoke to several hundred high school students at the first ever Mayor Mims Teen Youth Summit. The event brought together many high school students from the City of Dayton to take part in a variety of programming aimed at informing, inspiring, and empowering Dayton youth. The central theme of the summit was “You Matter,” and keynote speakers presented on the topics of Mental Health, Purpose and Passion, Mentorship, and Youth Civic Engagement.

Rep. Blackshear’s topic was youth civic engagement. His presentation focused on the variety of ways that young people can become engaged in issues that matter to them, as well as his story on how he became civically engaged.



### Letters for Teachers



Representative Blackshear recently signed over 1,000 letters for the teachers and administrative staff in his district. Their hard work and dedication to helping students overcome learning barriers has been crucial the success of our young people.



## Legislators gear up for Lame Duck Session

Over the next few weeks, you may hear legislators talk about or see in the news “lame duck session.” Lame duck is the period of time after an election and before the swearing in of the elected members. This year, lame duck is November 9 through December 31.

During this time, Republicans fill sessions with their most extreme bills because when lame duck is over, all of the bills that do not pass are “dead” and must be reintroduced in the next General Assembly to be considered again.

Some of the legislation we are expecting to pass:

- Total abortion ban with no exceptions for rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother;
- HB 376, weakens your online data privacy;
- HB 294, anti-voter bill to limit early voting opportunities and drop boxes for mail ballots; and
- HB 327, which prohibits “divisive

concepts” being taught in schools, would make it illegal to teach that the Holocaust was bad.

Democrats will fight against these bills and for real solutions to reduce costs for families, raise wages and protect your freedoms.

