



A legislative update from  
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House District 8

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Dear Neighbor,

Budget season is in full swing at the Statehouse, and the House version of the budget is terrible. However, the fight is not over yet. The budget is now being worked on by the Senate, so it will be important to call your senators over the next few weeks to voice your concerns. The budget has to be on the Governor's desk by June 30th.

The majority party claims that this budget is fiscally responsible and good for Ohioans. This is a lie. This budget includes cuts to public library funding, public school funding, and all kinds of community organizations that serve everyday Ohioans. Claiming fiscal responsibility by cutting public funding to give a \$600 million handout to the Browns for a new stadium is the height of hypocrisy. As a result of this, other Ohio sports teams are now asking for government handouts.

As Ranking Member on the Health committee, I have serious concerns about the health budget in this version. Cutting pediatric cancer research to the tune of \$5 million doesn't help anybody. The governor wanted tax increases on cigarettes and other tobacco products to fund a child care tax credit and tobacco cessation programs. This would have helped decrease tobacco use and keep Ohioans healthier.

Another example of big government is the creation of an abortion registry that would require providers to keep a record of the zip codes and states of patients seeking an abortion in Ohio. This is a complete invasion of privacy and flies in the face of the reproductive freedom constitutional amendment that we passed in 2023. The budget also requires the Department of Health to declare that there are only two sexes, which is scientifically incorrect.

As a physician that has treated Medicaid eligible patients, I am also very worried about the loss of Medicaid expansion. The current version of the budget has a trigger in it that would automatically end Medicaid expansion if federal funding drops by even \$1. This would result in 770,000 Ohioans losing insurance coverage. Due to further federal cuts to Medicaid, about 17% of our state Senate district is at risk of losing health coverage. This will delay care and kill people. This would be disastrous for the healthcare system in Ohio.

Finally, the funding of our public education system is in jeopardy in this state budget. The proposed budget completely guts the Fair School Funding plan that was implemented in 2021 to address the chronic underfunding of public schools. The current budget contains the lowest state share of funding for public schools in recent history. At the same time, the budget allocates over \$1 billion to private school vouchers. This is completely unfair to Ohio students; about 90% of whom attend public schools. This budget asks teachers and school systems to do more with far less. Our goal as state legislators should be to ensure that Ohio students have a world-class education. School choice isn't for students, it's for schools because they're not required to support all students who need specialized programs.

A state operating budget reveals the top priorities of the legislature. Looking at this version of the budget, it seems like House Republicans are prioritizing the wealthiest few in the state while completely ignoring everyone else.

If you care about healthcare, education, libraries, and our state in general, please contact Senate President Rob McColley (614-466-8150) and Senate Finance Chair Jerry Cirino (614-644-7718) and tell them that Ohioans deserve better!

Sincerely,



**Anita Soman, M.D**  
**House District 8**



## Issue 2 Overview



Issue 2 recently passed on the May 6th primary ballot. This will permit up to \$250 million per year for the next ten years to support the Ohio Public Works Commission Capital Improvement Program.

The Ohio Public Works Commission has funded infrastructure projects in communities throughout Ohio for nearly 40 years. It provides grants and loans for better roads, bridges, wastewater treatment, water supply, and stormwater infrastructure. The program does not increase taxes and is reliant on bonds which are paid off with existing state revenue. These bonds are also unrelated to the bonds going to the Browns in the state budget. The Browns' bonds only benefit one billionaire family and there is no feasible way that the state will be able to pay those bonds back. Through the Capital Improvement program, every Ohioan in all 88 counties will benefit without putting strain on the state budget or taxpayers' wallets.

Have questions? To learn more about the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program and to see what projects are happening in your community, visit [publicworks.ohio.gov](http://publicworks.ohio.gov).



## Adult Use Cannabis Updates

As many of you know, Ohioans voted overwhelmingly to legalize adult use cannabis in Ohio. Even though Ohioans have made it very clear how they feel about this subject, the Republicans are determined to rollback this ballot issue. SB 56 would severely restrict adult use cannabis in Ohio. It passed the Senate, and is now being heard in the House Judiciary Committee. Amongst other things, it reduces the number of plants that home-growers can have by half, outlaws smoking cannabis everywhere except in your home, and prohibits possessing legally purchased cannabis from other states. This is an unwarranted attack on the will of the voters. Please call or email the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jim Thomas at (614) 466-8030 or [rep49@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep49@ohiohouse.gov) and tell him to not support this bill!



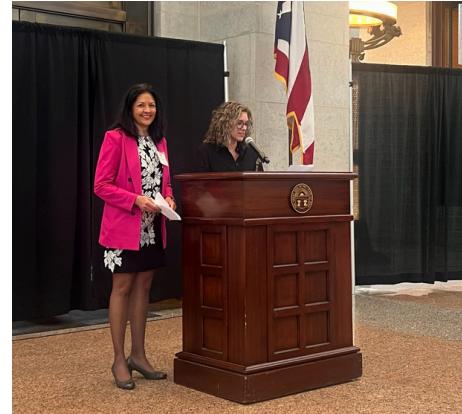
### Senate Bill 1 Update

In March, Gov. DeWine signed SB 1 into law. It is set to go into effect July 1st, but there's a statewide effort to repeal it through a ballot initiative. In my opinion, if SB 1 becomes law, it will have numerous harmful effects and that is why a group of Youngstown State professors are leading the effort to repeal it. If you are interested in learning more about this, visit this website:

[www.ohsb1petition.com](http://www.ohsb1petition.com)



# Out and About



I was honored to speak at the Perinatal Task Force Reception. We must do more to support mothers during this important and sometimes difficult time in their lives!



I spoke at a Worthington Board of Education meeting to get the word out about how the state budget affects schools.



I talked to some government classes at Thomas Worthington about what I do as a state representative!

# Out and About



I talked to Family Medicine residents about how to advocate for their patients at the Statehouse. Getting doctors involved in advocacy is so important!



I met with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network to discuss how the bill requiring biomarker testing coverage can save lives!



My House Democratic colleagues and I hosted a press conference about the disastrous first 100 days of Trump's presidency.

# Out and About



I met with Ohio's Oncology Nurses' Association to discuss issues facing healthcare workers and the importance of biomarker testing for cancer patients.



I attended a protest against the Trump administration and extremist policies.



I spoke at a press conference condemning HB 1/SB88 which are discriminatory and anti-American. They would ban people from certain countries from buying a home in Ohio.



I recognized the Asian Festival Board on the House floor for their contributions. For 31 years, the Asian Festival has been a great way to bring the AAPI community together and share our cultures with the Central Ohio community.