

A legislative update from
STATE REP. ANITA SOMANI
 HOUSE DISTRICT 11



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From the desk of Rep. Somani

OHIO Virtual Office Hours

I will be holding virtual office hours on Thursday, March 16 from 4-6pm. This is a time for you to get to know me better and talk about the issues you believe need to be focused on here at the statehouse. To sign up, please email rep11@ohiohouse.gov.

OHIO Senior Resources

Senior Lunches: The City of Hilliard's Senior Center is offering Senior Lunches every Tuesday and Thursday at noon for seniors ages 55 and older. Residents must make a reservation by 4pm the day before by calling **(614) 876-0747**. [March Lunch Menu](#).

Free Transportation Available: The Hilliard Express is offered for residents 55 and older seven days a week. Residents can schedule a free door-to-door ride from any address in Hilliard. To schedule a ride, call **1-833-SHARE-33** or visit www.sharemobility.com/hilliard

Dear Neighbor,

Committees and House Session are underway at the statehouse, as we begin to work on this year's operating budget.

I voted in support of **House Bill 23**, the Ohio Transportation Budget, which was passed out of the House in Session. This budget is crucial for creating new jobs and ensuring railway safety here in Ohio. I am proud of the strong bipartisan support it received.

My legislation with Assistant Minority Whip Tavia Galonski to create a statewide AAPI Commission, **House Bill 25**, has been referred to the State and Local Committee. I am hopeful I will be able to provide sponsor testimony on this soon.

I recently filed **House Bill 72** with Representative Adam Mathews to designate October as Hindu Heritage Month. This legislation would allow us to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Hindu Americans in Ohio.

I am excited to begin work on committees to advocate for the health and equality of all Ohioans. You can track these committees by going to www.ohiohouse.gov/committees and stream them live at www.ohiochannel.org.

As always, please reach out to my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Anita Somani

Anita Somani MD
 State Representative
 Ohio House District 11

Columbus Metropolitan Library Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

The Columbus Metropolitan Library is celebrating its 150th anniversary this upcoming Saturday, March 4. Each branch will offer several activities for all ages. All information can be found at www.columbuslibrary.org/150-birthday-bash/

The Dublin Branch will feature:

- 10am: Party with Pete the Cat
- 11am: Sidewalk games with Cecilia Martyna

The Hilliard Branch will feature:

- 10am and 11am: Happy Birthday to the Library story time
- 1pm: Balloon mystery magic show with Erica Carlson
- 1pm: Book chat
- 3pm: Dhvani India Performing Arts Society
- 4pm: Trivia

Celebrating Women's History Month

This month, I will have the pleasure of attending and speaking at two events celebrating Women's History Month:

- **International Women's Day Luncheon, March 6 at the Statehouse from 11:30am-1:00pm.** I will be introducing several accomplished women, including my colleague Representative Munira Abdullahi. Register to attend at: www.columbusinternationalwomensdaycelebration.eventbrite.com.
- **Women's Issue Network's Women's History Month Dinner at 6:00pm in Springfield, OH.** I will be one of three keynote speakers, alongside my colleague, Minority Whip Jessica Miranda, and Congresswoman Joyce Beatty.

Out and About

This month, I have met with several local and state groups to continue discussing legislative priorities. As I continue to meet with local organizations, I would love to meet with constituents and see the good you are doing in the community. Please reach out to my office for any in district events you would like for me to attend.

March meetings:

- Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp
- Columbus City Schools
- Hilliard City Planning
- Office of the Ohio Attorney General
- Wexner Medical Center
- American Cancer Society
- Serve Ohio
- Pfizer
- American Heart Association
- Columbus Metropolitan Library



Rep. Somani meeting with ServeOhio and a D11 constituent who is a part of AmeriCorp



Rep. Somani meeting to discuss Medicaid buy-in age limits



Rep. Somani attending the grand opening of Global Gifts & Thrifts. Global Gifts & Thrifts is located in Hilliard at **4730 Cemetery Road**.

Speaker Jason Stephens held a press conference to announce his priority bills for this General Assembly. These priorities include bipartisan pieces of legislation that will empower Ohio families. Among these are:

- **House Bill 3:** Authorize an affordable housing tax credit
- **House Bill 9:** Establish a loan repayment program for teachers
- **House Bill 10:** Continue funding the Fair School Funding Plan

However, the Speaker continues to also prioritize legislation that hurts working families and instigates culture wars. These include:

- **House Bill 1:** Large tax cuts targeting the wealthy. This will result in a **\$1.2 billion** loss in money for local governments, including public schools. Lowering taxes like this bill proposes will lower the amount of funding for schools. This contrasts with Governor DeWine's goal to prioritize early child literacy and school funding.
- **House Bill 6:** Bans transgender girls from playing on female teams in high school and college. This bill is similar to the legislation introduced last General Assembly, but it does not specify how a student's sex would be determined.
- **House Joint Resolution 1:** Raise the percentage needed to pass a constitutional amendment to 60%

You can track these bills and sign up to be notified when committees meet by going to www.ohiohouse.gov/legislation