

# State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

## OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 22

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### February Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

This month has been busy with committees, session, press conferences, and resource fairs. In this newsletter I will highlight some of the key legislation my office has been focused on.

February is Black History Month! Black history is American history and Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. Democrats in Ohio are fighting hard every day, building a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. Building a state that supports and welcomes everyone has been a long and difficult process, but I am committed to creating lasting and impactful change.

Ohio House Democrats gathered in Columbus for a Black History Month press conference and to reaffirm our commitment to equity, justice, and opportunity for every Ohioan. We highlighted efforts to address disparities that disproportionately impact Black communities, particularly in healthcare access and outcomes, while continuing our work to expand economic opportunity, strengthen housing access, improve transportation equity, and support safe communities. Honoring Black history means not only celebrating extraordinary contributions, but also taking meaningful legislative action to remove systemic barriers that persist today.

I am proud to be your state representative. I want to hear from you! My office is happy and ready to help you with any state related issue or just to listen to your thoughts about state government. Always remember, I work for you. I hope you'll reach out. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 22



## Kei'Mani's Law Press Conference

Alongside State Rep. Josh Williams I introduced legislation aimed at protecting Ohio's children. **House Bill 707**, Kei'Mani's Law is named after 13-year-old Kei'Mani Latigue and is designed to strengthen child protection services. This legislation is about ensuring Ohio's children are not lost in the system designed to protect them. Kei'Mani's Law provides guardrails to the child protection process, making sure that wellbeing of our children is promoted and their safety is prioritized.

This bill requires each public school in Ohio to appoint a Child Protection Liaison, responsible for managing cases of child abuse or neglect involving students. Schools are often the first-place signs of abuse are noticed. This bill creates a clear point of contact, someone who is accountable for communication, coordination, and follow-through. Child protection liaisons will receive comprehensive training on Ohio's child protection process, ensuring consistency and competency.

Kei'Mani's Law also strengthens the Uniform Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), making sure that information is entered promptly and updated often. Access to SACWIS will be expanded to not only child protection liaisons, but to juvenile courts and law enforcement agencies, while maintaining strict compliance with state and federal privacy laws. While knowledge sharing is a crucial aspect of this legislation, it is also important that those trusted with this information are trained and held to the highest standards. The Department of Children and Youth will provide mandatory training to all individuals and entities who access SACWIS.



Rep. Brewer speaks at the press conference  
introducing HB 707.

## House Bill 653 Sponsor Testimony

This month I provided sponsor testimony on **House Bill 653**, legislation that creates statewide civil parking ticket standards. While parking enforcement is necessary, statewide standards are also needed to protect Ohio drivers from excessive and accumulating fines and fees.

Late fees and add-on charges attached to parking tickets can sometimes spiral far beyond what is reasonable. A small ticket can quickly grow into a financial burden that disproportionately impacts working families, seniors, and low-income residents. We need parking enforcement, but it should encourage compliance and safety, without creating additional financial hardship for Ohioans.

House Bill 653 creates civil parking ticket standards designed to protect Ohio consumers, while maintaining local enforcement. This bill does not eliminate parking enforcement or restrict municipal authority to regulate parking. Instead, it establishes sensible consumer protections by:

- Extending the minimum grace period from 15 to 30 days;
- Capping total late fees per ticket at \$20;
- Limiting excessive administrative and collection fees;
- Prohibiting additional penalties, surcharges, or fee multipliers; and
- Creating uniform statewide standards.

This legislation now awaits a second hearing in the House Local Government Committee.



Rep. Brewer gives testimony on HB 653.



## House Bill 496 Sponsor Testimony

My second sponsor testimony of the month was for **House Bill 496**, bipartisan legislation to designate the third week of September as “Fathers Walk Week.”

Each September, the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood (OCF) invites fathers and male mentors to take part in the Fathers Walk either walking or, if unable, driving their children to early childhood programs and schools. This legislation will encourage school districts and fathers to take part in this celebration, emphasizing the importance of mentorship and support in education.

HB 496 now awaits a second hearing in the House Children and Human Services Committee.



## House Bill 393 Sponsor Testimony

My third sponsor testimony of the month was for **House Bill 393**. After passing the House in November, I gave testimony in the Senate Addiction and Community Revitalization Committee.

HB 393 requires community based correctional facilities to assist residents in obtaining state ID cards. Previously, the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly enacted a program to assist individuals in custody of the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in obtaining an ID card, HB 393 expands this program to community based correctional facilities.

In many cases, a state ID card is the barrier preventing justice involved individuals from accessing crucial supports such as, SNAP benefits, housing, and healthcare and can prevent them from taking the next step in their life in finding employment, opening bank accounts, voting, and basic stability needed for reintegration. This legislation will also benefit our broader communities, not just the individual. When people are given the tools to succeed, they're less likely to return to the justice system. That means safer neighborhoods, lower costs to taxpayers, and more families staying together.

# DO YOU DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP?

## JOIN US ON MARCH 7!



Representative  
Darnell Brewer &  
CHN invite you...

### HOMEOWNERSHIP FAIR

Saturday, March 7  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Garfield Heights Civic Center  
5407 Turney Rd, Cleveland, OH 44125



### Homeownership resources will include:

- *Basics on How to Become a Homeowner*
- *How to Work with a Realtor*
- *Financial and Housing Counseling*
- *Energy Savings and Weatherization Program*
- *Affordable Homes Available for Sale*



#### Register:

[chnhousingpartners.org/events](http://chnhousingpartners.org/events)  
or at the QR code.



*Refreshments will be provided.*

Questions? Contact:  
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[CHNHousingPartners.org](http://CHNHousingPartners.org) | [BelieveMortgage.org](http://BelieveMortgage.org)

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