

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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April Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

This month the House was on recess, meaning we did not have session or committee meetings. But my office was still busy advocating for legislation, meeting with constituents, and collaborating with community partners.

April was National Minority Health Month, a time to focus on the health disparities in minority communities across the state and country. Latina and Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than white women. In addition, infant mortality rates among Black Americans and Native groups are higher than other racial or ethnic groups in the United States. Improving healthcare in minority communities is one of the most important issues facing our state. Democrats will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone, no matter their zip code, can thrive here in Ohio.

The week of April 11th -17th was Black Maternal Health Week. Black mothers are 3x more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications compared to white women. We must address this injustice by removing barriers many Black mothers face to receiving quality healthcare and investing in proven solutions.

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



Rep. Brewer Announces Safe Firearm Storage Pilot Program

On April 21th, I joined Cleveland Public Library, the Cuyahoga County Office of Violence Prevention, and The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio (AMCNO) in announcing a collaborative effort to bring free safe gun storage devices to select library branches.

Starting May 1st, the yearlong pilot program will provide free gun locks and safes to Cleveland Public Library's Lorain, Rice, and Glenville campuses. Safe storage items will be available for all residents as long as materials last. Participating campuses will also distribute educational materials and host programming to connect residents with local violence prevention organizations and services. Similar programs have been successful in library systems across Ohio. The success and impact of this initiative will be evaluated over the course of one year with the possibility of expansion to other campuses.

This program is more than handing out gun locks, it is about initiating conversations, cultivating safe storage education, and making our homes and communities safer.



Rep. Brewer speaks at the program announcement press conference.

This month I joined other Ohio legislators, and the Ohio Justice and Policy Center at a press conference to celebrate "Second Chance Month" and share legislation aimed at giving Ohioans a second chance. Second Chance Month is observed every April and is an effort to raise awareness about the difficulties faced by individuals reentering society after incarceration.

I highlighted the following legislation:

- House Bill 368 - Requires eviction records to be sealed after three years.
- House Bill 393 - Requires community based correctional facilities to assist individuals in obtaining their state ID cards.
- House Bill 653 - Establishes caps on late fees and administrative costs on parking tickets.

At the statehouse we hear calls to invest in workforce development, build economic empowerment, and strengthen families. Giving Ohioans a second chance is essential if we wish to meet these goals. That is why my office has focused on introducing legislation that puts people first.



Rep. Brewer speaks at second chance month press conference.



Rep. Brewer Sends Letter to Governor to Request State Storm Recovery Assistance

A few weeks ago I sent a letter to Governor Mike DeWine requesting state assistance for municipalities recovering after severe storms. On April 15th, much of District 22 was impacted by high winds, flooding, and hail which caused power outages, transportation disruptions and widespread damage to homes and infrastructure.

In my letter I asked the Governor to:

- Declare the Cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, and Garfield Heights as State Disaster Areas;
- Authorize activation of the State Individual Assistance Program for residents impacted by the flooding; and
- Authorize the State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) for Cuyahoga County, with emphasis on the communities most affected by the April 15–16 storms.

April's storm resulted in extensive damage to homes, essential household systems, and personal property, leaving many residents with uninsured essential losses that exceed the capacity of local governments and voluntary agencies to address. The State of Ohio's assistance would provide immediate relief and a clear recovery pathway for families who are currently displaced, financially strained, or living in unsafe conditions due to these disasters.

I will continue to work with state and local officials to ensure that affected residents receive timely and effective support.



House Bill 393 Passes the Senate

This month my bipartisan **House Bill 393** passed the Senate. The bill would require community based correctiona facilities and halfway houses to assist inmates in obtaining state identification cards before release. The bipartisan bill unanimously passed the House in November and quickly to be passed in the Senate.

H.B 393 Now awaits a concurrence vote from the House before moving to the Governor's desk.