



Dear Neighbor,

We hope you are having a happy holiday season so far and spending time with loved ones! Welcome to a very special issue of my office's newsletter!

In this newsletter, we will recap my freshman term. You will learn about each bill that I introduced, my experiences in my assigned committees, goals for next General Assembly and a few other fun surprises!

Thanks to everyone who supported me and entrusted me to continue working hard for District 27. It has been an honor to serve as your State Representative, and I will continue putting people first and making families in Ohio a priority in the 136th General Assembly.

We are looking forward to 2025 and the new General Assembly.

If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
Rachel

Here are some ways my office can assist you:

- Disputes with state government agencies;
- Ohio House commendations, condolences, and congratulatory letters;
- Proposing bill ideas and law changes;
- Connecting you or your business to state programs or services

Helpful Contacts:

- BMV: (844) 644-6268
- Hamilton County Board of Elections: (513) 632-7000
- Hamilton County Job and Family Services: (513-946-1000)
- Legal Aid of Greater Cincinnati: (513) 241-9400
- Ohio Consumers' Counsel: (614) 466-8574
- Unemployment Compensation Hotline: (877) 644-6562



135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap.

HB 188

In June of 2023, my colleague, Representative Brewer (D-18) and I worked hard to pass HB 188 out of the Health Provider Services Committee. HB 188 would designate the second whole week in June as “Ohio Nursing Assistants Week.”

Nursing assistants are essential to the operations of healthcare systems. They are responsible for a wide range of tasks, including obtaining a patient’s vital signs, aiding patients with bathing or dressing, maintaining a clean and safe environment , providing nutritional assistance, and helping with ambulation. As a nurse myself, I cannot overstate the importance of the role of nursing assistants on the interdisciplinary care team and I’m humbled to honor them each year in June!



This bill passed through the House on October 11, 2023, On December 10th, HB 188 was amended into SB62 and is headed to the Governor to be signed into law.

Rep. Brewer and I are so happy that this piece of legislation passed and everyone will recognize our nursing assis-

HB 287

On June 12, we were scheduled for a third hearing on HB 287 and the bill passed the Homeland Security Committee!

HB 287 would create a Terrace Park license plate and the funding generated from the sale of the license plate would support Terrace Park young athletes and recreational fields.

This piece of legislation had its first hearing on November 28, 2023 in the Homeland Security Committee. And HB 287 was amended into SB 163 on December 11, 2024 during House session.



We are really excited that Terrace Park can show off their community pride with their new license plates—and fundraise for an important cause!



135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap.

HB 300

HB 300, a bill in which I worked on alongside Representative Sharon Ray, would establish a pilot program for remote treatment of opioid use disorder. HB 300 is a bill that would provide the opportunity to study whether offering remote monitoring of methadone treatment results in more successful care.

This piece of legislation would benefit many people and make healthcare more accessible.

HB 300 had its first hearing in the Behavioral Health Committee on October 31, 2023. The bill had its third hearing on May 7, 2024, also in the Behavioral Health Committee. Even though there were several powerful proponent testimonies and no opponents of the bill, the Chair did not schedule a vote on this bill.

House Bill 300

Requires the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to establish a pilot program to provide grant funding for the provision of remote methadone treatment to individuals with opioid use disorder.



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Sharon Ray (R-Wadsworth)

Although this bill did not get to the House floor this General Assembly, we are hopeful that this bill will progress further next General Assembly.

HB 309

In November, Representative Cecil Thomas and I introduced HB 309. This piece of legislation would prohibit a federally licensed firearms dealer from transferring a firearm until at least ten days have passed since the dealer contacted the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and received a unique identification number.

Rep. Thomas and I believe that by establishing a 10-day waiting period for firearm purchases, House Bill 309 strengthens existing safeguards and encourages responsible gun ownership. The focus on this bill is not to infringe upon Second Amendment rights, but to ensure that firearms are acquired responsibly. The 10-day waiting period proposed in this bill is a sensible policy and is a step toward protecting our communities and saving lives.

We were scheduled for one hearing on this bill and proponent and opponent testimony was not scheduled by the Chair.

House Bill 309

Regards firearms transfers, criminal background checks



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati)



135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap.

HB 352

The ACEs legislation (HB 352) was introduced in December 2023. HB 352 would establish the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study Commission.

This piece of legislation seeks to build a study commission that includes various viewpoints with the goal of collaboratively developing legislative priorities to address the prevalence and effects of adverse childhood experiences.

HB 352 passed unanimously in committee and the House in May!

House Bill 352

Establishes the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission!



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton)



HB 362

On May 7th, in the Health Provider Services committee, HB 362 had its fourth hearing with proponent, opponent and interested parties testimony.

House Bill 362

Revise law governing certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs).



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Monica Blasdel (R-Carroll County)

HB 362, a bill I'm working on with Representative Monica Robb Blasdel, would change the current law requirement that a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) practice under supervision of a physician, podiatrist, or dentist to allow a consulting relationship.



135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap.

HB 388

HB 388, regards enforcement of the federal Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.

I worked alongside Representative Andrea White on this bill that would authorize the Ohio Department of Health to enter into agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the administration and enforcement of the federal Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule. This would allow more local education and enforcement around the rule with the goal of decreasing Ohio children’s exposure to lead.

House Bill 388

Regards enforcement of Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule.

Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Andrea White (R-Kettering)

On May 16th, HB 388 had it’s 3rd hearing in the Public Health Committee on June 12, 2024.

HB 393

One June 12, I provided sponsor testimony on HB 393, in the House Public Utilities Committee.

HB 393, would require refunds for utility customers when the courts rule that utilities have been charging them improperly. This bill addresses a bipartisan issue and matter of fairness for Ohioans.





135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap.

HB 397

HB 397 would require the Department of Health and Aging, Commission on Minority Health, and community organizations to incorporate Alzheimer's disease and dementia awareness information into relevant public health outreach. I worked with Representative Jim Hoops on this bill.

Throughout June, HB 397 had a second and third hearings and passed the House with a unanimous vote of 93-0.

Representative Jim Hoops (R-81), my co-sponsor and I, are very appreciative for the support from our colleagues and all the advocates who worked on this bill.

House Bill 397

Regards increasing education, awareness, and understanding of cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's, and dementia.



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon)



HB 452

HB 452 had its first hearing and would require hospitals to establish a security plan for preventing workplace violence. I worked with Representative Andrea White on this bill.

This bill would help prevent violence toward healthcare workers and create safer hospitals in our districts and in Ohio ultimately supporting patients and hospital staff.

Working on this bill with Representative White (R-36) has been a collaborative and informative experience.

On June 26, 2024 the House passed HB 452 during session! This bill moved forward to the Senate and HB 452 had its fourth hearing on December 17th and was passed out of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.



On December 18, 2024, HB452 was voted out of the Senate, the changes amended into the bill from the Senate were concurred by the House during the late night lame duck session. And, now HB452 heads to the Governor's office to be signed into law!

135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap.

HB 509

I'm really excited about HB 509 that Representative Tim Barhorst (R-85) and I introduced in June 2024.

This bill would require that prescription drug rebates received by the insurance companies or prescription benefits managers be passed on to the patients. When patients are in the deductible phase, or coinsurance phase, of their health plan, they pay the full list price of medications; however their insurance company receives the medications at the negotiated lower prices. HB 509, the "Share the Savings" Act, will require that the insurance companies pass these lower prices on to the patients.

House Bill 509

Apply prescription drug rebates to cost-sharing requirements.



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Tim Barhorst (R-Ft. Loramie)

HB 509 had its first hearing and sponsor testimony on June 18th in the House Insurance Committee. We look forward to continue the work on Share the Savings Act in the 136th General Assembly!

HB 591

This month, I worked with my colleague Representative Sean Brennan (D-Parma) on HB 591. HB 591 would Enact the Charter School Sponsor and Operator rating act.

HB 591 would require the Department of Education and Workforce to issue an annual sponsor report card that would report the performance of community school sponsors in the prior school year. Sponsors oversee community schools ensuring they are adhering to their contracts, providing oversight, making decisions around renewing contracts and opening or closing schools, and setting academic, fiscal and governance structures for community schools.

Parents deserve to have current data around the school they are choosing for their child and should be aware if there is decreasing performance of a school.



HB 591 had its first hearing on December 3 in the Primary and Secondary Education committee.

135th General Assembly Bills Introduced Recap .

HB 670

On September 27th Representative Nick Santucci and I introduced HB 670.

HB 670 would change the professional title of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate. The definition of Physician Associate remains the same as Physician Assistant and means an individual who is licensed under Chapter 4730 of the Ohio Revised Code to provide services as a Physician Associate to patients under the supervision, control, and direction of one or more physicians.

This piece of legislation only changes the title of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate with no change to the scope of practice.

House Bill 670

Change physician assistant job title; make related changes



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Nick Santucci (R-Howland Twp.)

HB 670 is important because the title from Physician Assistant to Physician Associate has already been changed at the national level by the American Academy of Physician Associates in 2021 and it is important for Ohio to be consistent with the national title.

HB 675

On October 10th, Representative Jodi Whitted and I introduced HB 675. HB 675 will create the Social Worker Internship Grant Program.

Social work students are required to participate in an internship while working towards their degree. These internships are normally unpaid or underpaid. Because of this, some students need to work an additional job on top of a full course load and this internship.

With this grant program, each student would receive \$20,000 divided over the number of semesters it takes the student to complete their internship.

House Bill 675

Establish the Social Work Internship Grant Program



Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Jodi Whitted (D-Maderia)

We are hoping HB 675 would help with the retention of social work students and would help the next generation of social workers entering the workforce.



135th General Assembly Bills Recap

HB 676

On October 11th, I introduced another bipartisan piece of legislation of HB 676 with Representative Cindy Abrams.

HB 676 would establish Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) centers in Ohio. This bill would establish the licensure, rules, and requirements for an individual to start their own PPEC center in Ohio. These centers would allow for children with complex medical conditions to obtain quality childcare.

These centers would be inclusive classroom environments with onsite nursing staff, allowing children with severe medical needs to have their social, emotional, physical, cognitive and speech, and educational needs met at their early childhood education center. PPECs are an important resource in many other states and I am so excited for the implementation of PPEC centers in Ohio.

House Bill 676

Regards prescribed pediatric extended care centers

Representative Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati)
Representative Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison)

Ohio is a leader in pediatric healthcare and families move to Ohio to be able to receive the best healthcare for their child with severe medical needs. HB 676 would make PPEC centers a possibility in Ohio to ensure that children with complex medical needs have the opportunity to attend daycare.

Legislation Goals For Next General Assembly

I am really looking forward to getting to work for Ohio and specifically District 27 in 2025! I already have a few goals for pieces of legislation that I plan to reintroduce next General Assembly.

HB 676 is a priority that I will work to get to the finish line by the end of the next General Assembly. This month, Abigail and I visited Easterseals Redwood in Kentucky to tour a PPEC center in action. We were joined by, Director Wentz and members of the Department of Children & Youth. We wanted to thank Easterseals Redwood for opening their doors and showing us around. The tour showed us how beneficial these centers are to so many children.

If you ever have any legislation ideas, my office would love to hear from you! Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office by either phone or email with your ideas!





This Year's Capital Budget Funding!

TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING FOR OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 27



\$380,000

Clear Creek Bike Park

STATE REP. Rachel B. Baker
DISTRICT 27

TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING FOR HAMILTON COUNTY



\$16,750,000

University of Cincinnati Health:
Including Blood Healing Cancer Center

STATE REP. Rachel B. Baker
DISTRICT 27

On June 26th, the House of Representatives passed legislation that finalized the One-Time Strategic Community Innovation Funds and Capital Budget allocations. My office's goal was to advocate to fund projects that bring jobs to our community, refurbish our city centers, and improve the life of every person in Hamilton County—making our community a happier, healthier and better place.

This bill appropriated more than \$6.2 billion of state funds across all of Ohio. With a grand total of \$100 million coming to Hamilton County projects like the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati, Meals on Wheels facility, Best Point Mental Health Center, Addiction Services Council, Cincinnati Art Museum, YWCA Domestic Violence shelter, Cincinnati Observatory, Cincinnati Public Radio, the Clear Creek bike trail, University of Cincinnati Health, and Xavier University. As a Hamilton County representative and resident, I am grateful for all of the funding that will be coming into our community.

I listened to my constituents and advocated for their needs for the community. I am a strong believer that state funds should go to improve the lives of the people in Ohio and in District 27. We are looking forward to seeing these projects flourish and the positive impact they have on our community members.

TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING FOR OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 27



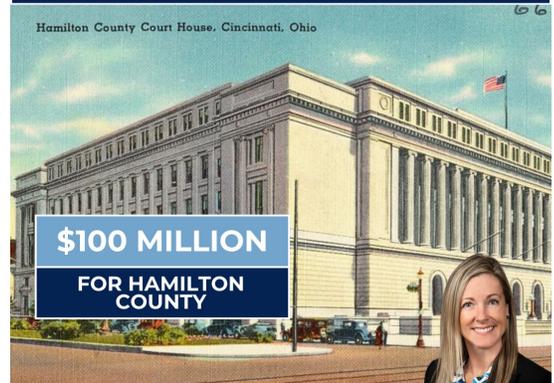
\$9,750,000

For Xavier University College of Osteopathic Medicine

STATE REP. Rachel B. Baker
DISTRICT 27

TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING SECURED

Hamilton County Court House, Cincinnati, Ohio



\$100 MILLION

FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

STATE REP. RACHEL B. BAKER
DISTRICT 27



I had the absolute pleasure of serving on five committees this General Assembly. I learned so much from each committee and I enjoyed learning more about the different bills that came across our desks!

I was honored to be the Ranking Member of the House Aviation & Aerospace Committee. I learned all about the issues and key priorities for the aviation and aerospace sectors in Ohio so we can explore how the committee can help improve and solve the issues. A highlight of mine, from this committee, was to learn about drones. During this General Assembly, I recognized the potential uses for drone technology in the healthcare space. This definitely sparked some ideas I may pursue in the new General Assembly.

I also was honored to serve as a member of the House Behavioral Health, Public Health Policy, Technology & Innovation, and Health Provider Services Committees. In each of these committees, we heard important legislation and were able to work to bring much needed policy changes and resources to Ohioans.

I really enjoyed collaborating with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to either pass or get to a fair compromise on each bill.





Rep. Baker in the Community!

Lilah Foley

I started my journey as your State Representative, with my former aide Lilah Foley. She left my office in March and she is now the Director of Public Affairs for Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus.

Lilah has many fond memories, while being my Legislative Aide at the House, but she has two that come to mind. Her first favorite memory was , working on HB 5. This was the first bill that we did in the office and it was the first bill that she really got into the weeds for in her time as an LA. She was so excited to see all of our hard work pay off with the bill being signed into law. Her second favorite memory was . Setting up the office at the very beginning. She liked figuring out systems for constituent casework, legislative priorities, outreach, etc and building an office from scratch was really exciting.



I am so proud of Lilah and with all of the help that she did around our office. I wouldn't have been able to start my time as your State Rep in an efficient and thoughtful way, if it weren't for her.

This past May, Abigail and I visited all thirty one public schools in District 27! We passed out cookie trays and thank you letters to all of the teachers, administrators, and staff to thank them for all of their hard work supporting our children over this past school year.

I want to thank each and every teacher, administrator and staff for their unmatched service to our community.

Because of you, our children can find community, security, and care at school. The commitment and dedication that each of you have allows for learning to flourish in our district.

We had a really fun time visiting the schools and it was great to see all of the hard work that you do. We are looking forward to seeing you all next May!





Indian Hill High School Boys Soccer Team Come to the Statehouse!

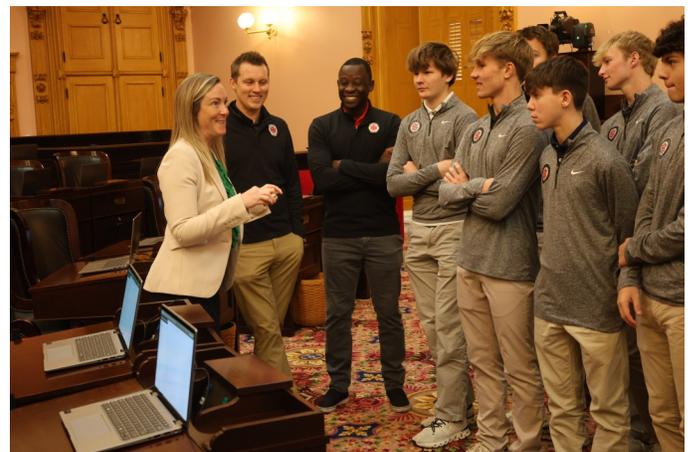


On December 11th, 2024 the Indian Hill High School Boys Soccer team drove from Cincinnati to Columbus to celebrate their extraordinary State Championship win for the OSHAA Division III title. During session, the team was recognized on the House floor and before session they got to go on the floor to see what it was like to be a State Representative!

This team's season was nothing short of remarkable, finishing the season with 23 wins, no losses, and 2 draws, scoring 104 goals and conceding only 15. Through countless hours of practice and a commitment to the game and their teammates, they reached the State Championship finals, where they had an unforgettable victory defeating Twinsburg! This was a very important and exciting win for the team because it was the first soccer championship win in Indian Hill History!

A special shoutout to a few players, including Senior Connor Wilkes who scored 40 goals and 26 assists, Senior Aiden Faber who scored 24 goals and 20 assists, and Goalkeeper Senior Alex Swallow for his 14 shutouts. My office would like to commend the coaches for their tireless effort and leadership of the team!

The coaches include, Head Coach Bryan Daniel, and assistant coaches Tony Awor, Jake Cowens, Mike Duncan, Mike Fry, Bill Mees, and Logan Neff. We would also like to honor the parents, guardians, families, teachers and community members, whose support was a cornerstone of this team's journey. Thank you to the team and coaches for coming up and visiting us at the Statehouse!





Rep. Baker Goes to The Governor's Office!



December 19th was a very exciting and happy day for our office! We were so happy to get the news that Governor Dewine would sign HB 5 into law. House Bill 5, the adoption modernization act, the House voted and passed unanimously in June 2023. Currently, there are over 3,000 children in Ohio waiting to be adopted. By clarifying and streamlining the adoption process and eliminating barriers to adoption, we are helping children find safe, permanent, and loving homes, ultimately improving the health and well-being of Ohio's children. My joint sponsor, Representative Sharon Ray and I have a personal connection with this bill and we couldn't be happier that we will help so many families in Ohio!

This was my office's first bill signing and we had two very special guests join us for this important day, Misty and CJ! Misty came up to the Statehouse twice for her proponent testimony. We can't thank her enough, for her efforts, which ultimately led to the success of HB 5.

I would like to thank the many people that made this bill possible. First, thank you to my joint sponsor, Representative Ray, for her hard work, diligence, and expertise throughout this process. Additionally, thank you to Shawn Welch and the Ohio Judicial Conference, Judge Laura Gallagher, Magistrate Kelly Green, Judge Dunn, John Huffman, Julia Kaine, and the Ohio Adoption Law Roundtable, and the many other interested parties for their guidance and expertise as we worked to finalize the bill. Finally, thank you to my previous aide, Lilah, my current aide Abigail, and Representative Ray's aide, Brionna, for all of their efforts throughout this process.

