



Dear Neighbor,

Happy Holidays! December is full of celebrations and valued time spent with family and friends. As we gather to reflect on the year and look ahead to what's to come, I wish you a warm and safe season of joy and love.

I'm proud of the work we've done together here at the Statehouse this year. In my first year, I was honored to step in quickly to ensure seamless constituent services while also introducing meaningful legislation that, among other things, would support and strengthen our schools, restore integrity to the ballot board and protect our healthcare freedom. We have worked to put people first to lower costs, increase wages, and build safer communities. I will continue to fight back against anti-democratic legislation, anti-reproductive healthcare, anti-gun safety laws to ensure all Ohioans—no matter your race, gender or economic status—have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive.

Looking ahead to the new year, I'm optimistic for the future of our state. I am looking forward to working for you and your family every day in the halls of the Statehouse and our community.

With that, I hope you have a healthy, happy holiday season. Before gathering with loved ones, make sure you are up-to-date on your flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/> to find a vaccine provider near you.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

To unsubscribe please email repo4@ohiohouse.gov

District 4 Office Hours

Please join me for my next District 4 Office Hours

Friday, January 24, 2024

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Upper Cup Coffee Gahanna

121 Mill St, Gahanna, OH 43230

Please contact my office if you would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting, or if you would like to meet at a different time or location that is more convenient for you.

Year in Review 2024

This was a busy year working for you and the people of House District 4. I'm proud of the work my staff and I did in 2024. Here are some of the numbers.

450+ phone calls, emails, and letters to constituents

\$2.71 million+ funds brought back to the district

35 constituents helped through casework

7 office hours and 1 town hall hosted

House Democrats during the 135th General Assembly were successful in passing legislation that put people first by prioritizing the betterment of individuals from different backgrounds and communities, including:

- **Fair School Funding** (House Bill 33)
- **Require AEDs in Schools** (House Bill 47)
- **Modern Adoption Law** (House Bill 5)
- **Enact Madeline's Law regarding Hearing Aid Coverage** (House Bill 152)
- **Eliminate Spousal Exceptions for Certain Sex Offenses** (House Bill 161)
- **Create a Respectful & Open World for Natural Hair Act** (House Bill 178)
- **Requiring Feminine Hygiene Products in Correctional Facilities** (House 30)

Looking ahead to the new year, I'm optimistic for the future of our state. I am looking forward to working for you and your family every day in the halls of the Statehouse and our community. I will continue to put people over politics and work to ensure all Ohioans—no matter your race, gender or economic status—have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive.

Legislative Update

I have recently had the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on a number of bills.



On December 3, I presented testimony to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee on three bills:

- [HB 581 Charter School Oversight Act](#): Ends loophole to keep open schools that are dropped by their sponsor and are in-auditable, requires parental notification of charter school report cards, and website available performance comparisons between charter schools and their local public school. (Joint Sponsored by Rep. Isaacsohn)
- [HB 582 School Busing Improvement Act](#): Provides funding for old school bus repairs and replacement and creates fairer standards around school transportation rules. (Joint Sponsored by Rep. Robinson)
- [HB 592 School Rating Enhancement Act](#): Reinstates the State Report Card Review Committee and adds achievement and progress metrics by which chartered nonpublic schools can be compared to traditional public schools. (Joint Sponsored by Rep. Brewer, *pictured above*)

Having a strong system of public education is paramount so that every child can have the best opportunity to thrive and become a contributing member of our communities. Public education is one of the crown jewels of our People First agenda and I will do whatever it takes to support it.

The reality is public taxpayer dollars are being spent on other systems of education that are not held to the same accountability measures and are not required to serve every student in the way our public schools are. The School Report Card Review Committee will ensure that DEW-issued school report cards provide families and students accurate and informative information about traditional public schools. At the least, parents and guardians deserve to have a way to compare their public schools to community or charter schools and private schools in order to make the best decisions for their children. The legislation I presented also addresses logistical concerns from school districts and makes a number of upgrades to school transportation in Ohio for all students.



On November 21, Rep. Michael Skindell and I presented sponsor testimony to the State and Local Government Committee on [House Bill 490](#), which would **designate the third Sunday in November as "Road Traffic Victims Day of Remembrance"** in the state of Ohio. I appreciate constituents Sharon Montgomery and Tricia Kovacs as well as well as Ginger Tornes (*pictured above with me and Rep. Skindell*) for attending committee and their support of this bill.

Recent Events

Mock Election at Gahanna Lincoln High School



Tour of Intel



Ribbon Cutting for Orthopedic One in Gahanna



Touring Columbus Jewish Day School in New Albany



Attending the Investiture of OSU President Ted Carter, pictured with Student Government President Bobby McAlpine



Touring United Way of Central Ohio



Visiting Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools



Meeting with Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Ohio 2024 finalists



December 2024 Dates of Note

Universal Human Rights Month

During Universal Human Rights Month, let's reaffirm our commitment to dignity, equality, and justice for all. Every person deserves respect and protection of their fundamental rights. Let's stand together, amplify voices, and work towards a world where human rights are upheld universally.

Rosa Parks Day – December 1

Beyond her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott, Rosa Parks was a fearless champion for civil rights, equality and justice for all. On December 1, Ohio recognizes Rosa Parks Day in honor of the legendary civil rights leader.

World Aids Day – December 1

On World AIDS Day, we unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Awareness, compassion, and education are powerful tools to break the stigma. Together, we can make a difference, support those affected, and strive for a world free from the impact of HIV.

National AFL-CIO Day – December 5

On the 68th Anniversary of the AFL and CIO merger, I celebrate the powerful history of the AFL-CIO and their enormous contributions to the labor movement. I am proud to put workers and working families first and will always support strong unions such as the AFL-CIO.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – December 7

On December 7, we remember the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, honor the more than 2,400 service members and civilians we lost on that “date which will live in infamy,” and recommit ourselves to caring for our veterans and their families.

International Universal Health Coverage Day – December 12

On International Universal Health Coverage Day, we stand united for Health For All. Accessible and affordable healthcare is a fundamental right. We celebrate progress and advocate for a future where everyone can enjoy the highest standard of health. Together, we can build a healthier, more equitable world!

Winter Solstice– December 21

Embrace the magic of the Winter Solstice! As the longest night unfolds, let's celebrate the return of light and the promise of brighter days ahead. May this season bring you warmth, reflection, and moments of pure enchantment. Happy Winter Solstice!

Christmas – December 25

Wishing you a joyous and Merry Christmas! May your hearts be full of love, laughter, and the warmth of cherished moments. Here's to spreading kindness, sharing smiles, and creating beautiful memories.

Hanukkah – December 25 - Jan 2

Wishing everyone a bright and joyous Hanukkah! May the Festival of Lights bring warmth, love, and countless moments of happiness to you and your loved ones. As the candles glow, may your days be filled with peace, miracles, and the spirit of togetherness. Happy Hanukkah!

Kwanzaa – December 26 - January 1

Celebrating the rich traditions and principles of Kwanzaa! Wishing you a joyful and meaningful holiday filled with unity, creativity, faith, and the spirit of community. May the seven candles illuminate your path, and may this Kwanzaa season bring blessings and inspiration to all. Happy Kwanzaa!

New Year's Eve – December 31

Happy New Year! All across our state, families and friends are celebrating the possibility and hope of new beginnings. I wish you and our entire community a wonderful 2025.