



Dear Neighbor,

Happy May! Now's a great time to check your voter registration before all the fun in the sun begins this summer. I am focused on continued efforts to better engage more young people-especially our graduating seniors- to participate in the civic process by getting registered to vote and learning about upcoming elections. Voting is one of the most fundamental rights that we have. Make your voice heard!

In our continued fight for reproductive rights, Rep. Dr. Anita Somani and I introduced House Bill 502, the [Protect Assistive Reproductive Technology Act](#). This legislation will provide civil and criminal immunity for providers, facilities, or health care personnel who provide assistive reproductive care, as well as for the patients seeking care. In addition, the legislation will provide data protections for patients, ensuring that third party organizations do not have access to private medical information. Every Ohioan deserves the right to build a family through assisted reproductive technology without fear of being prosecuted. This legislation will support families navigating infertility without adding to the emotional and financial stress they are already experiencing.

This May, I recognize and celebrate our educators in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. I especially would like to take the opportunity to recognize the outstanding educators who teach students in House District 4 and educators who live in House District 4. Thank you to all our educators and school staff who work hard each and every day to ensure our children and students are receiving the best education and care possible. That's why we support legislation to guarantee every Ohioan, no matter where they live, has a quality education. Democrats delivered a major win for education by continuing to fund the Fair School Funding Plan that would invest more money in our public schools. The Fair School Funding Plan supports students and ensures that public schools get the funds they need to succeed. Thank you, teachers, administrators, and staff, for all you do!

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 to be removed from the mailing list.

Office Hours

You are invited to attend my monthly District Office Hours

May Office Hours

Thursday, May 23

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Westerville Public Library, Purple Room

126 S State St, Westerville, OH 43081

New - Please sign up for a meeting slot here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB4AACA82FA4FCC25-49165293-monthly>

June Office Hours

Sunday, June 9

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Gahanna Library, Meeting Room 3

310 Granville St, Gahanna, OH 43230

Please sign up for a meeting slot here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB4AACA82FA4FCC25-49556172-june>

Please contact my office if you would prefer to meet at on a date that is more convenient for you.

Legislative Update

Rep. Skindell and I introduced [House Bill 490](#), which would designate the third Sunday in November as "Road Traffic Victims Day of Remembrance. This day honors the people killed or seriously injured on the roads of Ohio and to encourage road safety and support for crash survivors and their families. This will coincide with the World Day of Remembrance, a high-profile global event to remember the many millions who have been killed and injured on the world's roads and to acknowledge the suffering of all those affected. We must advocate for policies that protect all road users.

On April 9, Rep. Grim and I gave Sponsor Testimony on [House Bill 467](#) in the Government Oversight Committee. This bill proposes a modest change to the requirement that candidates for public office must disclose all names used in the past five years on their Declaration of Candidacy portion of their nominating petition. HB 467 would add an exemption to disclosure if that change of name was granted by any court in the state of Ohio. It would also update the Declaration of Candidacy Forms and the Ohio Candidate Requirement Guide. This bill had a second hearing for Proponent Testimony on Tuesday.

Me and my colleagues are working on a number of bills to improve K-12 Education. This week, I introduced [HB 581: the Charter School Oversight Act](#), [HB 582: the School Busing Improvement Act](#), and [HB 592: the School Rating Enhancement Act](#). If you would like to learn more about these bills and our full K-12 agenda, we will be hosting a Press Conference on Wednesday, May 22 at 10:00. I invite you to watch at OhioChannel.org. Please contact my office for additional information about these bills or the Press Conference.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month is observed in May and addresses the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. This month is a time to be dedicated to eradicating the stigma around mental health, extending support, fostering public education and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Mental health is one of the top health shortfalls that puts Ohio at the low end of state rankings ([44th](#)), and racial disparities continue to impact residents. House Democrats have been strong advocates for expanding mental-health services while supporting investments for services, research, and job development, championing bill like:

[HB 170 \(Grim, Thomas\)](#) - Enact Extreme Risk Protection Order Act

[HB 175 \(Miranda, Brewer\)](#) - Enact the Keep Every Home Safe Act

[HB 198 \(Blackshear, Jarrells\)](#) - Designate Counseling Awareness Month

[HB 231 \(Miller, A.\)](#) - Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line

[HB 300 \(Baker\)](#) - Establish pilot program - remote treatment of opioid use disorder

[HB 309 \(Thomas, Baker\)](#) - Regards firearms transfers, criminal background checks

Recent Events



Honoring Mehmet Yilanli of New Albany as a Kindergartener National Chess Champion



Ohio School Board Association event with Reps. Brent, Isaacsohn, and Sims



Ribbon Cutting at Columbus State Community College Accelerated Technology Center in New Albany



Advocates for perinatal mental health



Advocates from the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence



Ribbon Cutting for Creekside Chiropractic in Gahanna



meeting with the Alzheimer's Association



Central Ohio Labor Council George Meany Awards



Shadow Day with a Gahanna Lincoln High School Senior



Meeting with Lori Sontag of the Breathing Association



Take your child to work day at the Ohio Statehouse



Celebrating Ohio's Contributions to the U.S. 250th Anniversary in 2026



Press Conference to introduce House Bill 502, Special thanks to Kara Coates for speaking in support of this important legislation



Touring the Mid-Ohio Food Collective



Our Helpers Columbus Annual Eid Celebration



State of the State with Catey Wolfe and Melissa Sull

May 2024 Dates of Note

Mental Health Awareness Month

Nearly 1 in 4 Ohioans experiences a mental illness and during Mental Health Awareness Month, it's important to recognize the role mental health plays in our lives. We must discuss investing in our mental well-being and breaking the stigma that goes with receiving mental health care by investing millions of dollars for services, research, and workforce development. For resources, visit mha.ohio.gov.

National Military Appreciation Month

May is National Military Appreciation Month, a time to recognize and pay tribute to all members of the military. Congress designated May as National Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure that we appreciate the men and women of our armed services that keep us safe. I will continue to advocate for active military and veterans so that they receive the resources and support they deserve.

Jewish American Heritage Month

May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a time to recognize the contributions of Jewish Americans who have made a tremendous impact on our state and country. From Rabbi Sally Pries, the first woman to be ordained as a rabbi in the U.S, to Jerome Schottenstein, a Columbus businessman and philanthropist, generations of Jewish Americans have helped form the fabric of American history, culture and society.

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

During May, we celebrate the important role that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have played in our shared history. From science and technology, art and literature, to activism and innovation, we honor the rich culture, traditions, and contributions of our AAPI communities. I remain committed to ensuring that all Ohioans, no matter who you are or where you come from, are supported.

Nurses Week (May 6-12)

From higher wages to safe staffing, I will always fight for Ohio's 200,000 nurses. Ohio's nurses make less than the national average, which hurts our state's ability to hire and retain quality healthcare professionals. Our nurses deserve support and quality resources to do their jobs to their best ability.

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10)

We all know that preparing for the future starts in our classrooms. Our teachers work hard every day to ensure a bright future for Ohio and its children. During the week of May 6-10th, I want to reflect and focus on the amazing work our teachers do every day preparing our state for future success.

International Firefighters Day (May 4th)

On May 4th, we recognized our firefighters, who bravely and selflessly, put their lives on the line to keep us safe. Thank you for all that you do to ensure that our communities are protected. I will continue to guarantee that your courage and sacrifices will always be appreciated and remembered.

African World Heritage Day (May 5th)

May 5th was African World Heritage Day, a day for us to celebrate the continent's unique cultural and natural heritage. We celebrate African culture and achievements which have made Ohio, and America, a better place for us all. I am dedicated to ensuring all in Ohio are welcomed and supported, so we can all thrive.

Cinco De Mayo (May 5th)

Cinco De Mayo originated as a celebration of military victory in Mexico and is now an opportunity to recognize Mexican history and culture.

National Foster Care Day (May 7th)

May 7th is National Foster Care Day. Nearly 16,000 children are in the custody of a child welfare agency in Ohio. These children are often escaping abuse, addiction, or neglect. Today we recognize the important role that members from all parts of child welfare play in supporting children, youth, and families. I will continue to advocate for children in foster care and their success.

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day (May 10th)

We honor and celebrate our military spouses who do so much to support the men and women of our armed forces. Whether at home or abroad, the members of the United States military rely on their spouses for love and commitment. I honor our men and women in uniform and thank their spouses for their selfless sacrifice to their families.

Mother's Day (May 12th)

I hope you had a happy Mother's Day!

World Day for Cultural Diversity (May 21st)

On May 21st, we celebrate the vast array of cultural diversity displayed across our planet. The things that make us different are what make us special. Ohio is lucky to have so many amazing communities from around the world. From the Somali community to the Ukrainian community to our many different Latin American communities, Ohio is a better place because of our diversity.

Ohio Tourism Day (May 21st)

Visit Ohio! May 21st is Ohio Tourism Day, a day to show off all the amazing things to do, see, and eat here in Ohio. From Cedar Point to Hocking Hills, our great state has something to offer everyone and every family. I will continue to ensure that Ohio is a great place for families to visit.

First Responders Appreciation Day (May 24th)

May 24th is First Responders Appreciation Day! I am grateful for the hard work and sacrifices that first responders do to keep our communities safe. From firefighters to police officers to EMTs, our first responders are our heroes.

Memorial Day (May 27th)

On Memorial Day, we honor the courage and bravery of the Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we are the land of freedom, dignity, and opportunity.