



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

As you know, there has been a lot going on here at the Statehouse over the past several weeks. I hope this month's newsletter will provide you with an update on legislation, what I have been up to, and upcoming events.

I would like to acknowledge that, during times of political uncertainty, it's easy to feel unsettled or even overwhelmed by the constant changes and unpredictability. However, it's important to remember that while we cannot always control the actions of political leaders, we can control how we respond to them.

I encourage you to stay strong during these times by grounding yourself in your personal values, remaining resilient, and finding a way to stay positive amidst the chaos.

Please stay engaged with our office and other state and local officials. It's through your feedback, ideas, and concerns that I can better represent our shared values and priorities. We need to continue these conversations to address the issues that matter most to you, whether it's healthcare, education, or local economic development.

Sincerely,



Eric Synenberg
State Representative, District 21

SAVE THE DATE

You're invited to
COFFEE WITH CONSTITUENTS
With State Representative Eric Synenberg

RECEIVE ASSISTANCE.
ASK QUESTIONS.
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

LAKESHORE COFFEE HOUSE
22032 Lakeshore Blvd, Euclid, OH 44123

Eric Synenberg
State Representative

Please join me for my first "Coffee with Constituents" event in Euclid on **March 28 from 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. at Lakeshore Coffee House.** This is a great opportunity to stop by, introduce yourself, ask me questions, or let me know what issues matter most to you. My staff will also be there to assist with matters such as unemployment, SNAP, or other state-related issues. We look forward to seeing you there!

LEGISLATION UPDATE

I am currently in the process of introducing new legislation aimed at addressing the needs of our communities. My colleagues and I, from both sides of the aisle, are working hard to ensure that these proposals reflect the values of our constituents and that we are committed to creating real, positive change through thoughtful, effective laws. Check out some of the legislation we are crafting:

- **Creating the Ohio-Israel Trade Partnership** (R-Hall, D-Synenberg), which would serve to study and advance bilateral trade and investment between Ohio and Israel.
- **The Marriage Equality Act** (D-Synenberg, D-Somani), which seeks to update Ohio's laws to protect marriage equality.



614-644-5079



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77 S. High St., 10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Ohio Jewish Caucus



The members of the Ohio Jewish Caucus are dedicated to getting out into our communities, connecting with individuals and organizations to better understand their needs and concerns. That's why we've launched a series of roundtable discussions, starting in Columbus, with the goal of reaching Jewish communities across the state. These conversations are designed to engage directly with our constituents, ensuring that the voices of Jewish families are heard and their concerns are represented in the legislative process. Check out my social media for updates on future events.

Senate Bill 1: The Destruction of Higher Education

What is Senate Bill 1?

Senate Bill (SB) 1, introduced by Senator Jerry Cirino, is a bill that would cause substantial damage to Ohio's institutions of higher education. It would forbid diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, ban faculty strikes during contract negotiations, and prohibit universities from taking a stance on "controversial beliefs." We expect SB 1 to be up for a vote on the House floor **THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19.**

What are the consequences of Senate Bill 1?

Eroding Workers' Rights: Senate Bill 1 would radically undermine the union rights of faculty workers by banning full-time faculty from striking and prohibiting collective bargaining related to faculty workload, evaluations, tenure, and layoffs.

Undermining Students' Opportunities: Senate Bill 1 would erect barriers to student success and threaten the inclusive, diverse, and dynamic educational environment that supports all students' growth and learning.

Threatens the future of Ohio: Senate Bill 1 may damage Ohio's economy and future by making the state an undesirable place to learn and work. It would drive high-quality students and faculty out of Ohio to seek their education elsewhere. The excellence of our institutions will be weakened, diminishing our state's position as a global leader in higher education..

What can you do?

Call on the people who have the power to stop this legislation and voice your opinion. I've conveniently included their contact information here:

Chair of Workforce and Higher Education, Rep . Tom Young

Phone: 614-466-6504

Email: Rep37@ohiohouse.gov

Vice Chair of Workforce and Higher Education, Rep. Kevin Ritter

Phone: 614-466-2158

Email: Rep94@ohiohouse.gov

Speaker of the House, Matt Huffman

Phone: 614-644-6344

Email: Rep78@ohiohouse.gov



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Fair School Funding Plan:

Currently, the Ohio House is working on passing the state operating budget. This budget is passed every two years and essentially appropriates the funds that our community partners and state departments need to continue serving Ohioans. A large portion of the operating budget is dedicated to the Fair School Funding Formula. The formula was developed by a group of district superintendents and treasurers from across Ohio and establishes an objective way of measuring both how much it costs to educate a child in Ohio and how to allocate funding between the state and local governments. However, with the expansion of the school choice voucher system in Ohio last General Assembly, our public schools are losing money, and our public school systems are suffering the consequences. Below is a list of some frequently asked questions our office receives that I hope you will find useful:

Are private schools and public schools regulated the same way?

No. Institutions that receive Voucher funds are not accountable for the use of those funds the way traditional public schools are required to be accountable to the Ohio taxpayer. For example, Voucher schools are not required or subject to: develop a 5-year forecast regarding their use of public funds, provide annual financial audits, respond to public records requests, perform mandated state assessments and tests including 3rd grade reading guarantee, or collect data to support the development of report cards. Vouchers have zero accountability to voters. They have unelected board members and are not subject to public votes for levies or school funding.

What will it mean for local communities if the state doesn't finish the FSFP or include the new input costs?

Local property taxes will skyrocket again if the state doesn't pay for its share of inflationary increases. Ohio has more local school levies on the ballot than any other state in the nation. This is the state government's way of making local communities pay to subsidize private schools and fund tax cuts for the wealthiest Ohioans.

OUT AND ABOUT



I was proud to join in a day of action with the Ohio Federation of Teachers to oppose harmful policies that hurt our public school teachers and students.



This month, Representative Juanita Brent (D-18) and I toured Stella Maris, which supports communities through addiction and mental health services.



I was honored to attend the recent grand opening of Two Friends Brewing in Cleveland.



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