

Representative Denise Driehaus

31st House District



Denise Driehaus (D-Clifton) is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati and is honored to serve her hometown as representative for Ohio's 31st House district.

Prior to her election, Rep. Driehaus co-owned two independent businesses. Her small business background allows her to understand many of the hurdles facing small businesses and economic development. Her expertise and experience has been instrumental in her advocacy for increased job opportunities and economic development policies.

A passionate advocate for education, Rep. Driehaus co-sponsored a bill to expand Cincinnati's Community Learning Center (CLC) model statewide (HB 70), which became law. Since 2000, CLCs have closed achievement gaps, increased graduation rates and provided services to communities through a number of public-private partnerships in Cincinnati.

Rep. Driehaus has also worked on bills and passed laws regarding job creation, education, opioid addiction, human trafficking, and quality of life issues, support for the arts, entertainment districts and parks and recreation.

Driehaus co-authored Ohio's Good Samaritan law to help save lives from Ohio's statewide opioid and heroin crisis. Ohio's bipartisan Good Samaritan law lets concerned citizens, friends, family and loved ones call 911 free from the fear of prosecution or punishment in the event of an opioid overdose.

In previous years, Rep. Driehaus sponsored legislation helping children and families by expanding kinship care (HB 279), renamed I-75 the "Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway" (HB 325), allowing for the establishment of entertainment districts (HB 47), and opioid education being added to school curriculums (HB 367), all of which became law.

Driehaus currently serves as a board member of both the Cincinnati Recreation Foundation and the Community Learning Center Institute and is also a member of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Foundation's Education Program Committee. She formerly served as President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and Vice President of the West Price Hill Merchants Association.



Rep. Driehaus' dedicated public service to her community has been recognized by a number of organizations in recent years.

Emergency Nurses Association Legislator Appreciation Award

2012 National Association of Social Workers-Ohio Chapter Public Elected Official of the Year (2-one statewide and one regional)

2012 Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture

2013 Ohio Farmers Union Legislator of the Year

2014 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Legislator of the Year

2014 Ohio Alliance of Early Learning Advocates Legislator of the Year

2015 Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Steadfast Support of Environmental Conservation in Hamilton County Award

2015 Public Children Services Association of Ohio Legislator of the Year

Driehaus currently serves as ranking member on House Finance and Appropriations committee. She also serves on the House Ways and Means and Economic and Workforce Development committees.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Miami University (OH) and has two children, her daughter, Sarah, and her son, Andrew.