



MAY LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER FROM State Rep. Stephanie Howse

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From the Desk of Representative Howse

Dear Neighbor,

It is Spring Time! I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy.

April was another busy month here at the Ohio Statehouse. Last month, I joined the majority of my Democratic colleagues and I voted “no” on HB 110, the state’s two-year budget. After a year in which the pandemic has taken a large toll on Ohio’s families, businesses, and communities, I wanted to see a budget that created opportunity for Ohio’s future and built our state back better for all Ohioans. This isn’t that budget.

I believe the house version of budget was a missed opportunity to invest in everyday Ohioans still struggling amid the health and economic crisis. It fails to invest in the health, safety and security of all Ohioans by not including necessary investments to modernize our public health systems to respond to this crisis and be ready for the next one before it happens. It also doesn’t do enough to invest in the tools people need to live a better life, including childcare, rental assistance, affordable college, and higher wages. Join me at my upcoming office hours to discuss the state budget and legislative updates.

My office remains open and available to assist you with any questions or concerns you have as we navigate these unprecedented times together. In the meantime, stay healthy and take care. Know that it is an honor to represent you and your family here at the Statehouse (614) 466- 1414 or Rep11@ohiohouse.gov.

Yours in Service,

State Rep. Stephanie D. Howse



Ohio and Federal Tax Deadlines Extended

May 17, 2021



OHIO HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. This year’s theme is “You Are Not Alone.” As we continue to navigate the pandemic, it’s easy to feel disconnected from others, but no one should feel alone.

This is an important time to share resources and acknowledge the value of prioritizing mental health. It is okay to not be okay.

For resources in Ohio visit mha.ohio.gov. You can also call the Ohio Care Line for emotional support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **1-800-720-9616**.

Upcoming Office Hours

Wednesday, May 19 at 5:30PM

This is a time for you to talk with Rep. Howse and share your questions, comments or concerns!

All office hours will be held via LIVE on Facebook at facebook.com/RepStephanieHowse



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Legislative Update: Anti-Protest Bills

There are currently several anti-protest bills in the Ohio General Assembly introduced by the Republican Caucus:

Senate Bill 16 and **House Bill 109** would create higher fines and more prison time for folks participating or organizations supporting protests where first responders are harassed, intimidated, or injured, or if the protest is considered a "riot."

Senate Bill 41 would require protestors to provide financial reimbursement for the financial cost of policing an event if it becomes violent.

House Bill 22 would increase penalties and expand the definition of obstruction of justice for distracting or "diverting the attention" of a law enforcement officer.

You can look up more information on these bills by visiting: legislature.ohio.gov



COVID-19 Relief Funding

The Ohio House passed House Bills 167, 168, 169, and 170, which provides millions of dollars in federal funding to various COVID-19 Relief programs. These bills are currently in the Ohio Senate for their consideration. Some of the funding includes:

- \$465 million for emergency rental and utility assistance.
- \$100 million for federal disaster assistance
- \$299.9 million for grants to businesses and child care providers impacted by COVID-19, and for local fairs and Ohio Veterans Homes.
- \$135 million to provide grants to bars, restaurants, and lodging businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$683.1 million for Federal Coronavirus School Relief
- \$154.9 million emergency assistance funds to non-public schools.
- \$173 million to the Department of Health for Public Health Emergency Response.
- \$19 million of federal funds to county boards of developmental disabilities serving school-age students, educational service centers, and joint vocational school districts.

Looking for information on
the COVID-19 Vaccine or
community services?

CALL 211

Family Resources

Housing resources: Cuyahoga County residents who have lost income due to COVID-19 and need help paying their rent can now

call 1-833-377-7368.

They can also apply for assistance online at www.neorenthelp.org.

Utility resources: FirstEnergy and Dominion Energy are restoring service to past-due accounts.

Cleveland Water: (216) 664-3130 | **Cleveland Public Power:** (216) 664-4600 | **First Energy / The Illuminating Company:** (800) 589-3101 | **Dominion Energy:** (877) 542-2630 | **Columbia Gas:** (800) 344-4077

Senior and Adult services: For additional information on Senior and Adult Services

Call (216) 420-6700 or visit

cuyahogacounty.us/senior-and-adult-services.

Student services: For additional information on reliable high speed internet for students

Call (216) 777-3859 or

visit <https://empowercle.org/>

Unemployment resources: For more Information on applying for assistance, visit unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov

or call 1-877-644-6562.

Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Legislation

There are more than 350,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Ohioans, who have the right to live the American Dream, right here at home with safety and security. Across the state we have witnessed countless incidents of violence, verbal abuse, and profiling against our sisters and brothers who identify as AAPI since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our duty as elected officials to do our part to fight racism and support our AAPI communities by creating this commission and building unity throughout our state.

That is why State Rep. Tavia Galonski and I introduced H. B. No. 224, legislation that will create the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and the Office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs to address the injustices of the past and understand the unique difficulties in addressing the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander population in Ohio.