



Dear Neighbor,

The legislature is back in session, and lawmakers are hard at work on the state budget, our opportunity to create a fiscally sound blueprint for the next two years and beyond.

Budgets reflect our values. In this time of incredible uncertainty, we need to make clear our values—that Ohio’s promise is opportunity, the chance at a better life, a better job and a brighter future.

House Democrats are committed to restoring that promise by advocating for a state budget that prioritizes coronavirus relief; investments in the health, safety and security like modernizing our outdated public health system and social safety nets; and fully funding our public schools.

Additionally, House Democrats are fighting for a state budget that:

- Maintains Medicaid access and services to all eligible Ohioans;
- Continues to fund critical school wraparound services to ensure all Ohio students succeed;
- Expands access to early childhood education opportunities and job training for Ohio workers;
- Invests in ways to ensure more Ohioans graduate on time and with less debt, including stable Ohio College Opportunity Grant funding;
- Protects Ohio waterways and our environment, and improve water quality, including investments in H2Ohio;
- Continues all planned highway maintenance, preservation and safety initiatives;
- Fixes Ohio tax law to restore fairness for low and middle income families, and award tax incentives to Ohio small businesses that create jobs;
- Expands broadband access to underserved areas of the state.

If you have thoughts about the budget process, please feel free to contact me at Rep34@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-3100.

Sincerely,

House Minority Leader  
Emilia Strong Sykes

**Ohio Vaccine Eligibility**

**March 19**

- Ohioans age 40+
- Ohioans with cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, obesity

**March 29**

- Ohioans ages 16+

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**COVID-19 Vaccine**

As of March 19, those aged 40 and older are eligible for the vaccine.

Beginning March 29, 2021 Ohioans aged 16 and older with parental or legal guardian consent will be able to receive vaccine - 16 & 17 year olds can only receive Pfizer as available.

For more information on the vaccine, visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program/get-the-shot>

To check your eligibility and schedule your appointment, visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/screening>

Check out the Summit County Public Health’s website for more local information at <https://www.scpd.org/covid/vaccine>

## Leader Sykes calls for legislation to support women this Women's History Month

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize the important contributions of women and girls to our nation's history.

Despite the significant progress women have made over the past 100 years, the pandemic has brought to light the many disparities women still face

everyday. In 2020 alone, 2 million women left the workforce. Female dominated industries like hospitality have struggled during the pandemic, forcing many women out of work, and others have quit due to a lack of child care options.

As we look to rebuild back better from this pandemic, we must ensure that women and families aren't left behind. That's why I support legislation that will restore Ohio's promise of equal opportunity for women and families, including:

-The **Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program**, which would provide economic stability to working families in times of a medical emergency, when caring for a sick loved one, or welcoming a newborn into the family.

-The **Caregiver Tax Credit**, which would provide a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for certain expenses incurred by a family caregiver for the care and support of a qualifying family member.

-The **Ohio Equal Pay Act** would require employers to provide equal opportunity, encourage transparency in the workplace and empower employees to negotiate for the earnings they deserve.

-**Aisha's Law** would protect domestic violence victims by better identifying high-risks situations that often lead to further violence.

We must continue supporting women and families because when women succeed, Ohio succeeds.

EMILIA STRONG SYKES  
MINORITY LEADER  
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 34



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Office of House Minority Leader  
Emilia Strong Sykes

(614) 466-3100 | [rep34@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep34@ohiohouse.gov)

