



A legislative update from
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From the desk of Rep. Sykes

Dear Neighbor,

Summer is coming to an end, but Democrats are still working hard for you!

Each September, we recognize Labor Day, to honor the dignity, dedication and achievements of America workers. The working middle class built America, and unions built the middle class.

Too many Ohioans are working longer hours, and even multiple jobs, but still struggling to make ends meet. Meanwhile, corporations and the wealthy few are making record profits, but not paying their fair share.

That's why I am proud to support Democratic legislation such as HB 69 to raise the minimum wage, HB 145 to increase access to childcare, and HB 207 to expand the Homestead Exemption tax break. I am working to ensure that everyone gets a fair shot, and everyone has the opportunity to succeed. Democrats' most important priority is to create good-paying jobs and a strong economy that works for everyone.

I am proud to be your state representative. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Emilia Strong Sykes



SEPTEMBER
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
MONTH**

September is Suicide Prevention Month. A few months ago, the Suicide Hotline number was changed to an emergency three-digit number. **If you are suffering from a mental health emergency, please dial 9-8-8.**



Learning Lunchbox Distribution

September is National Hunger Action Month; and to kick it off, Representative Sykes joined COSI and the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank to help distribute grab- and- go meals as well as STEM (science, technology, math, engineering) kits called "Learning Lunchboxes." Each "lunchbox" contained five STEM related activities, suitable for learners of all ages, with step-by-step instructions and interactive questions to promote critical thinking and explain science concepts. This partnership helped to feed the minds and lives of over 1,500 families in Akron, Ohio.

Democrats introduce State Official Integrity Act to fight corruption

Democrats recently introduced the State Official Integrity Act. This legislation would ensure your elected officials are accountable to the people and prohibit any statewide officeholder from holding private employment, performing private work, or serving in any private position for which they receive compensation. This applies to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, auditor of state, treasurer of state, secretary of state, and any justice on the Ohio Supreme Court.

This bill is part of our continued fight against corruption in Ohio. As elected officials, we work for you, and there should be no doubt we are serving you with integrity and not advantaging ourselves at your expense.

In the Ohio House, we are fighting back against corruption and have introduced several other bills this General Assembly that would fight corruption and restore integrity to state government including:

- [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#): Requires dark money groups to identify their contributors and disclose their spending;
- [Public Corruption Repayment Act](#): Requires legislators to reimburse the state for compensation received between the time they were indicted for a felony involving public corruption and their conviction;
- [Ohio False Claims Act](#): Empowers individuals to report and hold companies committing fraud accountable;
- [Debarment of State Vendors Act](#): Requires a ban of vendors who are caught committing fraud in their dealings with the State of Ohio;
- **House Bill (HB) 10**: Fully repeals HB 6, including refunds to customers.

Time and time again, Republicans continue to contribute to attack our democracy and use their elected positions for their



September 15 to October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month

From September 15th to October 15th, we celebrate Hispanic (or Latinx) Heritage Month. Throughout the month we in the United States reflect on the contributions and influence that Hispanic and Latinx people have had on history, culture, and advancements here in the United States.

Hispanic Heritage Month began as Hispanic Week in 1968. The week then evolved into Hispanic Heritage Month as we know it today in 1988.

The start date, September 15th, was chosen because the day after (in 1810) was the start to the Mexican War of Independence. When the war was over, independence was not only granted to Mexico, but also Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua.



September 25 to September 27: Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated by Jewish Ohioans as a "High Holy Day." This year, Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Sunday, September 25th and ends at sundown on Tuesday, September 27th.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year with the first day signaling the beginning of "the Ten Days of Repentance" also known as the "Days of Awe". On the 11th day, another High Holiday occurs, Yom Kippur. This year, Yom Kippur lands on Wednesday, October 5th.

Yom Kippur is considered, by many, the Holiest Holiday on the Jewish calendar. This holiday is seen as the day that fate is decided for each person, so many Jewish people repent and ask for forgiveness.