

A legislative update from
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From the desk of Rep. Kelly

Dear Neighbor,

Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court’s conservative majority struck down Roe v. Wade.

As Americans, we know people should have the fundamental freedom to make decisions about their own health care. This ruling takes that freedom away, and lets partisan politicians decide if people should have the right to control their own bodies and futures.

[Over 60% of Ohioans](#) agree with the Roe v. Wade decision to allow access to abortion. Despite this, the same day it was overturned, a Republican law banning abortion after six weeks, a point when many people don’t even know they are pregnant, officially took effect in Ohio.

Democrats are continuing efforts to protect Ohioans’ freedom to access reproductive health care, including abortion. House and Senate Democrats have proposed an [amendment](#) to Ohio’s Constitution that would ensure all people have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and reproductive health care.

Americans have spent 50 years fighting for this right, and we are not giving up now.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

State Rep. Brigid Kelly



Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. This is a time to bring awareness to the importance of mental health access for Black and brown Ohioans. There are often barriers and stigmas that accompany accessing mental health care for these communities, and we must work to dismantle these in order to make health care more accessible for all.

Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) website to learn more and to access available resources.

August 2 Primary Election

The upcoming state legislative primary election is on **August 2, 2022**. Early in-person voting and absentee voting by mail began **July 6**. Absentee ballot applications must be received by your Board of Elections by **Noon on July 30**. The deadline for absentee ballots to be postmarked is **August 1**.

Visit the [Ohio Secretary of State](#) website to learn more!



Democrats still working to protect parents and support families



Democrats have a plan to protect health care and support babies and families. Due to reproductive freedom being almost completely stripped away in Ohio, it is more important than ever to ensure we are protecting women and parents, and supporting our families.

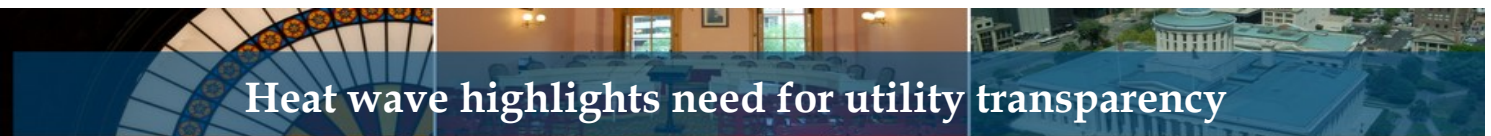
Ohio Republicans continue to prioritize legislation that endangers the health of women and parents, such as bills like [House Bill 598](#) and [Senate Bill 123](#). These current pieces of

legislation would completely ban abortion in Ohio without any exceptions for rape, incest or to protect the health of the parent.

Democrats know that Ohioans deserve the freedom to make their own decisions about their bodies. In addition to efforts to ensure this freedom, Democrats have introduced a comprehensive legislative plan that invests in families from the very beginning and ensures that all babies have the resources they need to grow and thrive.

The legislative package includes bills to:

- Eliminate the diaper tax;
- Create the Infant Formula Tax Credit;
- Establish the Ohio Safe Sleep and Baby Box Program;
- Require insurance coverage of medically necessary donor human milk;
- Create the Infant Nutrition Protection Act;
- Enact the Ohio Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.



Heat wave highlights need for utility transparency

As the weather warms up and Ohio feels the effects of climate change, it is more important than ever to ensure that the state is prepped for a future of clean and sustainable energy sources.

You deserve transparency from the people you pay your bills to, especially when health, safety and essential services are on the line. In order to ensure consumer security, our energy grid must be modernized and well prepared for major weather events.

Democrats have introduced legislation to help with this effort such as:

[House Bill \(HB\) 429—Energy Jobs & Justice Act](#)

This bill will launch the state’s largest economic development initiative in recent history by prioritizing clean energy jobs and environmental justice programs. It

will also center equitable policy design to ensure clean energy benefits go to those most historically and disproportionately harmed by Ohio’s regressive energy policies. Moreover, this bill moves Ohio towards a more equitable clean energy future by encouraging clean energy growth, energy waste reduction, and curbing utility influence over policymaking and regulatory actions.

[House Bill \(HB\) 389](#)

This legislation will reduce waste and save consumers money, and give utilities an avenue to design and implement energy saving programs, such as installation of smart thermostats, putting in less wasteful HVAC systems, and recycling old appliances.

Rep. Kelly Press Releases:

June 27, 2022: [Ohioans deserve the freedom to make their own health care decisions after Supreme Court strikes down Roe v. Wade](#)

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