



A legislative update from  
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**From the desk of Rep. Kelly**

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's 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 have introduced legislation such as HB 69 to raise the state minimum wage, and support Democratic legislation such as 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,

State Rep. Brigid Kelly



**September 16:  
Working Parents Day**

On September 16, we celebrate working parents and acknowledge the hard work and sacrifices working parents make every day to support their families. Working parents are feeling the squeeze of high costs for everyday expenses including healthcare, groceries, and rent.

I know that family always comes first, and Ohioans should have the opportunity to raise happy, healthy families. Democrats are working to ensure families have the resources they need to raise safe, healthy children without breaking the bank.

**Working Families First  
Town Hall Tour**

The Ohio House Democrats are hosting the Working Families First Tour to share what we're doing to put more money in your pocket and protect your fundamental freedoms— like making health care decisions. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and offer input on other issues facing our community.

These events are free and open to the public. I will be hosting a town hall event on **Wednesday, September 21st, 2022 at 7pm at the Forest Park Senior Center** (11555 Winton Rd, Cincinnati). I encourage you to come and bring your own view on what our community needs.



**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 the attack on our democracy and use their elected positions for their own gain. The State Official Integrity Act will ensure our state officials work for the people, not their own personal gain.



**Reps. Kelly, Jarrells introduce legislation to eliminate subminimum wage**

Representatives Kelly and Jarrells have introduced House Bill (HB) 716 to eliminate the paying of subminimum wages for persons with physical or mental disabilities in Ohio. Currently, employers are permitted to pay an individual with a disability at a rate lower than the minimum wage due to an assumption that workers with a disability are less productive and thus deserve to be paid less than their counterparts. Disabilities by which an employer can currently pay an individual less than the minimum wage include physical or mental disabilities, including those relating to age or injury. Such disabilities may include blindness, cerebral palsy, developmental disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders.

The practice of paying subminimum wages encourages negative assumptions about the productivity and capability of individuals with disabilities and ultimately increases stigma and creates additional barriers. Individuals with disabilities deserve to be paid equitably and have access to training and employment opportunities to succeed. Some argue that these subminimum wage jobs provide an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to be employed and to learn skills that would allow them to transfer to other, higher paying jobs. However, research has shown that many individuals with disabilities who are paid subminimum wages perform tasks that do not build the skills and knowledge needed to transition to other jobs.

The Federal government has already taken action on this matter. In April 2021, President Biden issued [Executive Order 14026](#), increasing the minimum wage for federal contractors, including employees paid subminimum wages. Following this order, in November 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor issued a [Final Rule](#) increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour for federal contractors. Again, this rule includes workers with disabilities and states that they must also receive no less than the new federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

Moreover, as of the end of 2021, 14 states across the U.S. have already taken action to eliminate, phase out, or modify the ability of employers to pay subminimum wages. States that have already taken action include Alaska, Texas, Minnesota, Maryland, Delaware, Hawaii, New Hampshire, California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. 7 additional states including Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia have bills pending to eliminate, phase out, or otherwise modify the paying of subminimum wages to individuals with disabilities.

According to the Representatives and other supporters of the legislation, by eliminating the paying of subminimum wages to persons with disabilities in Ohio, we affirm the dignity and worth of all people and provide more opportunities for everyone in Ohio to thrive.

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