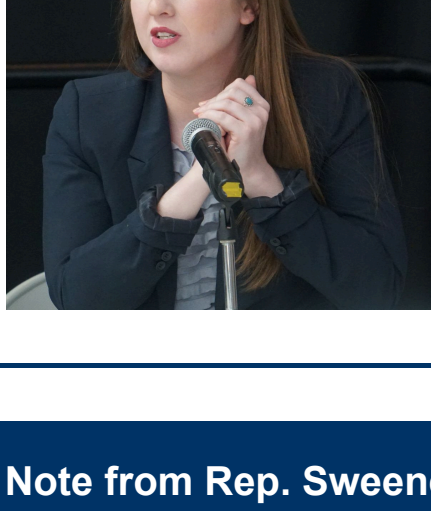




August 10, 2020

Statehouse News

From the Office of State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney



A Note from Rep. Sweeney

Dear Neighbor,

As we continue to battle the coronavirus and endure economic hardships, I hope this message finds you healthy and well. While new challenges seem to emerge with each passing month, I remain confident that we will emerge stronger than before if we work together. Our community has faced great challenges in the past, and it has overcome them through solidarity and steady leadership. No matter the circumstances, I will continue to work tirelessly for you everyday that I have the honor of holding public office, because public service should always be a sacred public trust.

Unfortunately, as we witnessed all too recently, some Statehouse Republicans have betrayed that trust at the highest levels of our government. I am sure you heard the news that, in connection with an ongoing EBI investigation into the largest bribery and money laundering scheme in state history, now former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) was arrested on federal bribery charges, indicted, and removed from his leadership position. While all of these are alleged crimes, this is a sad time at the Ohio Legislature and a dark time for our democracy. These appalling charges contribute to the myth that all politicians are crooks, out to serve themselves rather than to serve others. Ohioans deserve much better.

Corruption has no place in our government, regardless of political party. I called for Mr. Householder's resignation and voted for his removal as Speaker. Despite the nature of the charges against him, Mr. Householder currently remains a Representative in the Ohio House. I am also committed to and [voted for](#) his removal from that honor. Sadly, dark money and pay-to-play tactics are not new to Ohio politics. Without real campaign finance reform, history will continue to repeat itself. That's why I introduced the [Ohio Anti-Corruption Act](#) to shed light on dark money and bring much needed transparency and accountability back to the Statehouse, so that this never happens again. Any person or corporation influencing our elections should have to put their name behind their contributions. Bad actors are undoubtedly influencing our elections, and we can reduce their influence by shining a light on their activities.

In addition, I have continued to advocate for our local governments by writing a bipartisan [letter](#) to members of Congress. In order to save jobs and protect vital services, I asked that local governments be given more flexibility to use relief funds related to COVID-19. They are on the frontlines of the fight against the pandemic, so it's imperative that they be allowed to use federal dollars as effectively as possible to prevent further cuts, layoffs, and furloughs in our community. School districts also bear a heavy burden at the local level during this time. As they weigh how to reopen this fall using state and local guidance, I will host a [virtual town hall](#) with Rep. Crossman from Parma and special guests Eric Gordon, CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, and Dr. Charles Smialek, Superintendent of the Parma City School District. We would love for you to join us at **6:30PM tonight, August 10** via Facebook Live.

Particularly now that there's a new Speaker, I've continued to call for the Ohio House to reconvene so that important legislation can move forward at this crucial moment. Regardless of the legislature itself, my office has remained open and resolved a variety of issues for our friends and neighbors, ranging from unemployment and Medicaid to expediting state permits. I am still working and taking virtual meetings upon request as well. I won't stop fighting for you and your family to have a better life and a brighter future right here in Northeast Ohio. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or [my office](#) anytime that we might be of service to you.

All the best,

Bride Rose Sweeney



Updates

Governor DeWine's Statewide Mask Mandate

- As you know, Gov. DeWine officially mandated masks for all Ohioans. Everyone is required to wear a mask when:
 - Indoors at a location that is not a residence
 - Outdoors when unable to keep 6 feet distance
 - Waiting for, riding, driving or operating public transportation.
- Follow best practices by washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching your mouth, eyes, and nose, and staying at least 6 feet away from others.
- Feel free to contact my office if you have questions about this mandate from the Governor of Ohio.

Upcoming General Election

- With less than 100 days to go, Election Day is quickly approaching.
- I have continued my calls for the Ohio Secretary of State to take important steps to prepare for November, like [prepaying postage for absentee ballots using federal dollars](#) given for that purpose.
- While GOP leaders have thus far refused to implement this commonsense measure and make much needed changes to prepare for Election Day during COVID-19, you can still take action to make sure you and your friends and neighbors are ready to vote:
 - [Check your voter registration](#);
 - [Request your absentee ballot](#), and
 - Encourage friends and family to do the same.

The Census

- The census is still happening, even though it may look a little different due to COVID19.
- Participating in this year's census is incredibly important for creating fair congressional districts as well as determining how much funding our local communities receive for important issues such as education, healthcare, and road construction.
- If you haven't already, please visit [2020census.gov](#) and be counted.

Legislative Spotlight: House Bill 739

- The Ohio Anti-Corruption Act, House Bill [739](#), is my legislation to:
 - Close Dark Money Loopholes
 - Non-profit corporations like 501(c)(4)s and limited liability companies (LLCs) have become vehicles for big money special interests to hide their spending. These companies currently do not have to disclose their true benefactors.
 - The Ohio Anti-Corruption Act closes these loopholes, requiring these corporations and LLCs to **disclose contributions meant to influence elections**.
 - Require Transparency
 - The integrity of our democracy depends on openness and accountability. Our existing disclosure laws are not up to the task.
 - The Ohio Anti-Corruption Act requires corporations and LLCs to **tell us more about their true owners and the actual source of funds** behind the deceptively benign names of their organizations.
 - Strengthen Ban on Foreign Money
 - Large foreign companies are still able to skirt our current foreign spending ban by opening an American subsidiary funded mostly with foreign money to spend unlimited sums in our elections.
 - The Ohio Anti-Corruption Act **bans domestic corporations with foreign owners and decision makers from spending in our elections**.
- The Ohio Anti-Corruption Act was introduced July 29th and has not yet been assigned a committee.
 - I have been calling for House Bill 739 to have fair hearings.
 - You can echo my calls for a hearing by contacting Speaker Cupp's [office](#) regarding HB 739, the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act.

Resources

Ohio House District 14 Resource Guide (Available [HERE](#))

- My office has compiled an extensive resource guide to help my constituents with:
 - COVID-19 Information and Guidance
 - COVID-19 Helplines
 - Economic Support
 - Food Assistance
 - Small Business Assistance
 - Educational Materials
 - Employment Resources
 - Multilingual Resources
 - Ways to Donate
 - Mental Health Resources
 - Utilities
- Please share this guide and contact my office with any suggestions that should be included.

Eviction Assistance

- I understand that the beginning of the month can be a very difficult time for many as rent comes due.
- The Cleveland Legal Aid Society may be of assistance at [www.lasclev.org](#) or (216) 687-1900.



- You may also seek a local rent assistance grant at (833) 377-RENT (7368) or [neorenthelp.org](#).



Unemployment Compensation

- If you were previously denied normal compensation, you may be eligible for PUA. Apply online at [pua.unemployment.ohio.gov](#).
- Benefits will be backdated to reflect when you were first eligible for unemployment.
- If you are able to return to work, you should still be eligible to be compensated for the weeks you were laid off.
- To apply for normal unemployment, visit [unemployment.ohio.gov](#) or call 1-877-644-6562.
 - Use mass layoff code **2000180** to expedite your claim.
 - If you have already filed and did not use the code - do not reapply
- Those waiting for unemployment benefits may also qualify for additional benefits, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). To learn more, visit [benefits.ohio.gov](#).

Cuyahoga County

- Local governments are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Cuyahoga has responded to the crisis by launching its [Small Business Resource Center](#), converting its website to an information hub, and holding regular briefings at the County [Board of Public Health](#)

COVID-19 Information and Prevention

- Have questions about COVID-19?
 - Call: 833-427-5634
 - Visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](#)
- Preventative Measures
 - Wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water several times a day, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects, and surfaces each day.
- Wear a Mask
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are strongly encouraging people to wear cloth face masks when in public.
 - Cloth face masks prevent the slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.
 - Learn how to make a cloth face mask [here](#)

I have been working hard to be a reliable source of timely and accurate information. If you are interested in **regular summaries of the Governor's press conferences**, please contact my office or use this [link](#).

Please take precautions to keep yourself healthy, and do not hesitate to reach out to my office if you have any questions or concerns. I can always be reached at [Rep14@ohiohouse.gov](#) and (614) 466-3350.

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