

| February 2022

# State Representative Jeffrey Crossman

## Ohio House District 15 Statehouse Legislative Update

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Dear Neighbor,

The redistricting process continues, after the Ohio Supreme Court struck down both the state legislative and Congressional maps as unconstitutional in mid-January. The Court gave the Ohio Redistricting Commission additional time (twice) to re-draw the state legislative maps to be compliant with the Ohio Constitution yet Republican commissioners continue to drag their feet. Litigation and a Constitutional crisis here in Ohio has ensued.

If we want more than the illusion of democracy, we must insist on districts that are responsive to voters and are not gerrymandered in a way to give incumbent politicians an unfair advantage. Otherwise, there is no accountability to the people.

Ohio House Democrats are still fighting to ensure fair maps and elections for the people of Ohio, who deserve to choose who represents them, not the other way around.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Crossman".

Rep. Jeffrey A. Crossman

### Contact Methods:

[Message/Email Us Directly with This Link](#)

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## Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Teen dating violence is an issue that impacts everyone – not just teens – but parents, teachers, friends and communities as well. This month, Ohio House Democrats are raising awareness about teen dating violence and promoting safe, healthy relationships.

In 2018, HB 1, Democratic legislation to expand domestic violence protection orders to those in a dating or intimate relationships, was signed into law. Democrats continue to support legislation such as Aisha’s Law that would better protect survivors of domestic and dating violence.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, you can find help statewide through the **Ohio Domestic Violence Network** at **1.800.934.9840**.



## Democrats celebrate Black History Month

Happy Black History Month! Ohio Democrats are here to fight for equity and justice amongst people of all races, ethnicities, sexualities, gender expressions, religions, classes, and backgrounds. Black History Month is a time to honor that, and specifically celebrate the full histories of Black Americans.

This month’s theme is “Black Health & Wellness.” House Democrats are working every day to improve healthcare for Black Ohioans. Throughout this month, we will be highlighting the legislative work we are doing to ensure that Black Ohioans have fair access to opportunities, voting, healthcare, jobs, housing, transportation and all other aspects of life. Our legislative work includes;

*Signed into law;*

- HB 8 —Requires the recording of most custodial interrogations & will reduce the risk of forced confessions/wrongful convictions

*Passed in the House;*

- HB 3 —Aisha’s Law
- HB 371 —Expands coverage of screening mammography & patient notice of dense breast tissue
- SB 105 —Establishes reciprocity between state and local MBE certifications

*Awaits committee action;*

- HB 42 —Save Our Mothers Act
- HB 60 —Authorizes medical marijuana for autism spectrum disorder
- HB 135 —Allows all forms of copay assistance to count towards patient deductible
- HB 142 —Creates a four-year pilot program for coverage & provision of doula services
- HB 402 —Regulates the practice of certified professional midwives
- HB 491 —Establishes paid family & medical leave benefits



## House Democrats Announce Leadership Team for Remainder of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Ohio House Democratic Caucus welcomed its new leadership team for the remainder of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. In an all-caucus vote, Democrats elected **Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington)** as Minority Leader. Additional members of House leadership include **Assistant Minority Leader Thomas West (D-Canton)**, **Minority Whip Rep. Jessica E. Miranda (D-Forest Park)**, and **Assistant Minority Whip Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester)**.

House Democrats remain focused on creating good-paying jobs right here in Ohio, making healthcare more affordable and accessible, tackling corruption, and delivering for working people and families. Some of our other legislative priorities for this year include:

- Strengthen our democracy by enacting fair maps that best represent Ohioans and protecting the freedom to vote;
- Improve our public health infrastructure and ensure we have in place the systems to increase vaccination and ensure safe workplaces for all Ohioans;
- Make healthcare affordable and accessible;
- Implement commonsense gun safety reforms;
- Institute police accountability and reforms measures;
- Fix the state's broken unemployment system;
- Tackle corruption and restore integrity to state government;
- Fully repeal HB 6 and prepare Ohio for a clean energy future;
- Continue to stand with working people, to invest in our communities and grow good paying jobs that cut workers in on the deal and build an economy that works for all of us, not just those at the top.

We work for you, through 2022 and beyond.



*Pictured is 2022 leadership team. From left to right, Assistant Minority Leader Thomas West, Minority Leader Allison Russo, Minority Whip Jessica E. Miranda, Assistant Minority Whip Rich Brown.*



# NED AWARENESS WEEK

SEE THE CHANGE, BE THE CHANGE

FEBRUARY 21-27, 2022

NEDA is an annual campaign to educate and inform the public about eating disorders and to offer hope, support, and visibility to individuals and families affected by eating disorders. NEDAwareness Week 2022 is taking place the week of February 21st.

Our guest article this month is by Parma resident Julia DePenti who graciously offered to share her story to help others:

*“At the age of 17, after already 5 years of struggling with my body and relationship with food and exercise, I was diagnosed with anorexia. I spent the next few years in and out of the doctors for blood work and weight checks, as well as having to go to therapy regularly. I was extremely blessed to have had the support system I had and can now say I am nearly recovered from my eating disorder! However, I understand that not everyone will be in the situation that I was in and, for that reason have dedicated a good portion of my current life to advocating for eating disorder awareness.”*



*“I started doing pageants just out of high school to gain more of a platform for my advocacy and recently represented the Midwest region competing for the title of Miss North America. Though I did not win that pageant, I’ve continued on and am now the current reigning International United Miss Ohio, I will represent Ohio at the International United Miss pageant in Myrtle Beach this July! Since starting my advocacy, I’ve also become an ambassador for Project Heal, an organization that provides help and support to those who don’t have it, whether it be financial assistance, or just having someone in your corner rooting for you. I’m currently working with my local and state school boards to incorporate eating disorder education in health classes starting in middle school. However, it could be prevented through education, which inspired my program, Ed on ED: Education on Eating Disorders. Eating Disorders are among the most fatal mental illnesses, second only to the Opioid (SUD) Epidemic.*

*As a person of faith, I believe God got me through my eating disorder and is using me to help others get through it, too. If you are in need, or know anyone in need, help is available. National Eating Disorders Awareness helpline via call or text at (800) 931-2237.”*

