

Statehouse Update

From the Office of State Representative Mary Lightbody
House District 19 | 614-466-4847 <><> Rep19@ohiohouse.gov

Dear Neighbor,

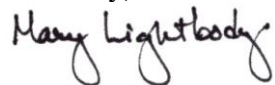
Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority struck down Roe v. Wade. As Americans, we know people should have the fundamental freedom to make decisions about their own bodies and health care. This ruling takes that freedom away, and lets partisan politicians decide if women have the right to control their own bodies.

[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 women don't even know they are pregnant, officially took effect in Ohio.

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 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,



I work for you.

Please keep me updated on bills and issues of concern and reach out anytime for updates on legislation in committees or votes by the legislature, as well as any upcoming district events that you would like me to attend.

Please contact my office at any time:

Office: 614-466-4847

Email: Rep19@ohiohouse.gov



Ohio BMV Update

Some BMV Services are now online at <https://bmvonline.dps.ohio.gov/>

As of June 27:

Ohioans may renew their four-year driver's license or identification card online.

Starting July 11:

Customers will be able to transfer a title when engaging in a person-to-person sale of a vehicle by using a new online title process, using the Ohio Title Portal.

New drivers will be able to take the driving knowledge test online, in order to receive a temporary permit. (The driving portion is still in person.)

Please join me for open office hours. This is an opportunity to ask questions and share concerns regarding our community and the state government. There is no appointment necessary!

❖ **I need to cancel the Office Hour event in New Albany that I previously scheduled for Saturday, July 9 due to the funeral services for Bill Resch.**

❖ Monday, July 11, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Gahanna Panera

❖ Saturday, July 23, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
New Albany Library Meeting Room 2

❖ Thursday, August 4, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Westerville Public Library Pink Study Room

I look forward to meeting with you. If you would prefer a private meeting, please contact my office to schedule one.

Working to protect women and support families

Due to reproductive freedom being almost completely stripped away in Ohio, it is more important than ever to ensure we are protecting women's health and supporting our babies and families.

The legislative majority continues to prioritize partisan legislation that endangers women's health, 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 mother.

I believe that people deserve the freedom to make their own decisions about their bodies. In addition to ensuring that women of Ohio have the freedom to make their own health care decisions, Democrats have introduced a comprehensive legislative plan that invests in families from the very beginning and ensures 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.

House and Senate Democrats have also proposed an [amendment](#) to Ohio's Constitution that would ensure all people have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and health care. We are working every day to ensure that families have the resources and complete information they need to maintain their health.

Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to bring awareness to the importance of mental health access for persons of color. Barriers and stigmas exist that accompany minority mental health, and we must work to dismantle these and make health care more accessible for all. Visit the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) to learn more.

Mental Health Resources:

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board (ADAMH) of Franklin County: 614-224-1057

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

Franklin County Franklin County Suicide Prevention Hotline:
614-221-5445

Adults in Crisis/Netcare Access: 614-276-2273

Youth (17 and under) in Crisis/Nationwide Children's Hospital:
614-722-1800

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 your utility companies, especially when health, safety and essential services are on the line and extreme circumstances are at play. Our energy grid must be modernized and well prepared for major weather events to ensure consumer security.

Legislation to help with this effort includes:

HB 429: Energy Jobs & Justice Act

- Launch the state's largest economic development initiative in recent history by prioritizing clean energy jobs and environmental justice programs;
- Center equitable policy design to ensure clean energy benefits go to those most historically and disproportionately harmed by Ohio's regressive energy policies;
- Move 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.

HB 389: Regards energy efficiency and peak demand reduction portfolios

- Reduce waste and save consumers money;
- 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.

Public Health Emergency Unwind and Assistance

There are many waivers and policies that were in place during the pandemic/Public Health Emergency that are expiring or changing. Programs include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, federal student loan payments, and more. Please make note of the following dates if they relate to you and your family. I have also included various contacts for organizations that may be able to assist you with additional resources. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my office if I can provide additional information or assistance.

Dates of note:

June 30, 2022:

- Waivers that expired include:
 - the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to offer school meals to all children at no charge, regardless of area or individual eligibility based on household income
 - other waivers for out-of-school-time meals (whether afterschool, during summer vacation, or during pandemic-related closures), including non-congregate waivers to allow for grab-and-go meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- These programs will continue through the summer via the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022

July 15, 2022

- Expected renewal of federal Public Health Emergency from Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for an additional 90 day period

August 15, 2022

- Potential 60-day notice of non-renewal of federal Public Health Emergency
 - If so, Ohio Department of Medicaid begins eligibility redetermination activities

August 31, 2022

- Federal student loan payments, collections on defaulted loans, and interest accrual expected to resume.

September 30, 2022

- WIC fruits and vegetables temporary benefit increase expected to expire

October 14, 2022:

- Potential end of federal Public Health Emergency by HHS, or renewal through Jan. 2023
 - End of Medicaid enhanced federal match agreement (eFMAP), Medicaid redeterminations begin
 - End of expanded eligibility for SNAP for college students
 - Vaccine Emergency Use Authorizations would expire, impacting COVID treatments and vaccines
 - End of telehealth and telemedicine waivers for some Medicaid and Medicare services
 - Final SNAP Emergency/Maximum Allotment for all households issued within 30 days

Action Items and contact information for you and your family:

Update your contact information with the Ohio Department of Medicaid to ensure you do not miss any new information on Medicaid!

- Call (844) 640-6446
- Self-Service Portal (SSP): <https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov>
- Contact County Department of Job and Family Services: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/county/>

Child Nutrition – Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Referrals

- Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY
- education.ohio.gov (or search ‘OHIO SFSP’)
- Text ‘FOOD’ to 304-304 (can use Spanish ‘COMIDA’)

Child Nutrition Pandemic EBT - ohiopebt.org

- Kids who normally qualify for free or reduced-price school meals or who are under 6 in a SNAP household

Ohio Foodbanks - ohiofoodbanks.org

- Mid-Ohio Food Collective
- “Find Your Foodbank” to find regional foodbank and best way to make referrals
- “Get help” for more public benefit programs

The Center for Community Solutions - info@communitysolutions.com - 216-781-2944

Children’s Defense Fund, Ohio - (614) 221-2244



Out and about in District 19

- In recent months, I have
- spoken to school groups at the Statehouse.
 - delivered commendations (retirement, 100th Birthday, ribbon cuttings),
 - volunteered with local organizations.
 - met with constituents, attended events, and more!

