

From the desk of

Dear Neighbor,

We are already more than half way through the 135th General Assembly! It has been an honor serving you thus far and I am excited for the opportunity to continue to put people first.

This past month the Republicans overrode the governor's veto of **HB 68**, something that the House Democratic Caucus stands firmly against. Once again, the Supermajority is disregarding the voice of the people. These matters should be left to families and doctors, not politicians. House Democrats will always stand with the LGTBQ+ community, championing legislation that protects their rights and recognizes them as vital members of our communities.

On the 15th of February, the House Minority Caucus will be hosting the Gun Violence Prevention Summit. This pioneering event will gather stakeholders from around the country and Ohio to the Statehouse in an effort to push dialogue on stemming the tide of gun violence in the state. Space is limited, so if you would like to attend the summit, please RSVP at this link: https://bit.ly/GVPSummit24

February is Black History Month! Black history is American history and Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. Democrats in Ohio are fighting hard every day, building a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. House Democrats are committed to creating a more perfect union that provides freedom, liberty, and equality to us all. Building a state that supports and welcomes everyone has been a long and difficult process, but I am committed to creating lasting and impactful change.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica E. Miranda Democratic Whip—28th District



Across the globe, around 2 billion people celebrate the Lunar New Year. Also known as the Spring Festival, this holiday is a festival that marks the beginning of the lunar calendar. The celebration is meant to let go of the past and bring in the present. May the Year of the Dragon give you peace, love, and transformation.



This month is a time to celebrate and recognize the rich contributions, achievements, and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. It serves as a crucial reminder of the struggles and triumphs of the Black community, highlighting the impact on culture, science, politics, and every facet of society. It encourages dialogue and a collective reflection on the ongoing journey toward racial equality.



House Democrats are proud to announce the inaugural Gun Violence Prevention Summit. Join us in fostering discussions on crucial commonsense policies supported by a bipartisan majority of Ohioans on February 15, 2024 at the Ohio Statehouse from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

The event will consist of three panels featuring elected officials, law enforcement officers and gun safety advocates to address solutions, legislation and real-world stories that put us closer to stemming the tide of gun violence in Ohio.

The panels are as follows:

- Taking Guns out of the Hands of Dangerous Individuals
- Promoting Responsible Gun Ownership
- Defeating Pro-gun Crime, Anti-cop Laws

Additionally, there will be a resource fair showcasing outside groups and initiatives that align with our commitment to address gun violence.

Interested in joining us? <u>RSVP here</u>.



House Democrats Recommit to People First Agenda for 2024

As we begin a new year, Ohio House Democrats want to reiterate their guiding values: the People First agenda. The People First agenda is built on top of three Democratic values: freedom, dignity, opportunity.

FREEDOM is the belief incorporated within fighting for our fundamental rights. A value that brings our communities, our tribes, our people together. Our mission is aimed at protecting the freedom of all Ohioans to vote, to choose, to live, to love and learn.

DIGNITY is focused on the value of building an Ohio we all deserve. Dignity means good jobs, fair wages, and suitable health benefits. The dignity found in the American dream of safe and affordable housing where we have a chance to reach our potential.

OPPORTUNITY is centered around the ideal that Ohio must invest in its most valuable resource that will lead this state forward- its people. This can be

done by meeting people where they are supporting

them, through good times and bad.

These values are what drive the Democratic Caucus. The new year is well underway, but the importance of these priorities remain the same.

