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Black History Month is a time to honor and specifically celebrate the full histories of Black Americans. This Black History Month, Ohio House Democrats are focused on “Black Health & Wellness.” We are working every day to improve healthcare for Black Ohioans.

In addition, our Caucus continues to work that all Ohioans have fair access to opportunities, voting, healthcare, jobs, housing, transportation and all other aspects of life. Our legislative works include, but aren’t limited to;

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
- HCR 6 —Declares racism a public health crisis



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HEALTH & WELLNESS



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS FEBRUARY WEBINAR



OHIO BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

2022 KICK-OFF

A DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACTS OF RACE AND RACISM ON BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH

Featuring Queen's Village

QUEENS VILLAGE

Zoom
1-2pm
Thurs. February 24th

The Black Maternal Health Caucus will be hosting a monthly learning series. Focusing on issues effecting Black mothers and babies. The first webinar is Cincinnati's Queens Village presenting A Discussion on Race and Racism on Black Maternal Health” featuring panelists Dr. Meredith Shockley Smith and Josselyn Okoroduru.

Queens Village is a supportive community initiative of Cradle Cincinnati by Black women, for Black women. Queens Village works to confront the disproportionately high rate of infant mortality experienced by Black mothers through changing racial disparities in birth outcomes and the conditions that drive maternal and infant health inequity.

This discussion is open to the public and will take place on Thursday, Feb. 24th from 1 pm to 2 pm via Zoom. You can register for the webinar and submit questions at:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W9q-HYfLT5-f2tLUIr1dOg



Lucas County Legislative Black Caucus

The Lucas County chapter of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus is moving into the year 2022 with plans to advocate, engaged in civic activities, and educate members about state government and its impact on Black Ohioans lives. Our group is an affiliate of the Ohio Black Legislative Caucus. We were established in 2020.

Our last meeting of 2021 was a gathering at Onyx Cafe with the late State Senator Edna Brown. At that meeting, Senator Brown shared her hopes and dreams for Northwest Ohio. She also talked about civic engagement and how everyone has a responsibility to be engaged.

The February meeting will be a **Zoom meeting and scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 2 pm**. Petee Talley, Convener/Executive Director of the Ohio Coalition on Black Civic Participation Ohio Unity Coalition will be our speaker. She will be talking about her organization's advocacy and education on the issue of racism's effect on the delivery of healthcare to people of color.

If you are interested in attending please send your contact information to: Rep44@ohiohouse.gov.



Redistricting

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 10 days to redraw the state legislative maps, and Republican commissioners adopted another set of partisan, four-year state maps on Jan. 22 without any Democratic support. The new state maps are now under review by the Court after voter rights advocates challenged the new maps as unconstitutional once again.

Meanwhile, the Legislature begins the second effort to draw fair and constitutional Congressional maps this month. Ohioans are still standing up and demanding fair maps that let them choose their representatives. I stand with you and continue to work for fair, constitutional ten year maps.

Space Heater Safety Tips

This winter, in our community and across the country we are seeing skyrocketing home energy costs. Many see small portable space heaters as a great way to keep warm and reduce energy bills. Improper use of these appliances, however, leads to an estimated 25,000 fires every year, according to California Casualty Insurance,

Keep these tips in mind to avoid a winter disaster in your home.

- Never use unvented combustion heaters indoors, instead consider an electric heater.
- Only use model that have current safety features like a tip over switch, which will automatically turn the heater off if it falls over and a Underwriter Laboratories (UL) label,
- Keep your heater on a flat, level, non-flammable surface.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from flammable items like bedding, drapes, furniture and paper.
- Always turn the heater off when you leave the area and when you go to sleep.
- Avoid using extension cords and running cords under rugs or mats.

For more information on safe portable heater use, visit: [Energy.gov/energysaver/articles/portable-heaters](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/portable-heaters)

Safety tips from "Don't Get Burned By Your Space Heater" Lorelei Seip, p. 32 Ohio Firefighter Magazine Vol. 52, Issue 6, Dec. 2021

**100 SISTAS
INVITE YOU TO INDIVIDUALLY PRAY
TO END VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**DATE: FEB. 14
TIME: 12 NOON
PLACE: WHEREVER YOU ARE**

...If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (NKJV)