

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY RICHARDSON

INTRODUCTION

Dear Residents of the 86th District,
Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Memorial Day! This is one of my favorite times of the year as we honor the selfless service of those who have served in the Armed Forces and who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom. As a member of the greatest fighting force in the world, I have seen the sacrifices made by our military and their families. I sincerely thank them all. We also unofficially welcome summer and parents enthusiastically await a more relaxed schedule for the summer and students and teachers are busy finalizing the school year.

The Ohio House of Representatives is also busy trying to prioritize and ensure important legislation is addressed in committee with the hope of getting policy into law by the end of this year. Later in this newsletter, I have highlighted a few important bills.

Recently, I was asked what a day at the Statehouse was like for me. The answer is that no two days are alike and I spend a tremendous amount of time attending committee meetings for my five assigned committees, working with colleagues to discuss bills and resolve complex issues, voting on the House Floor and most importantly, I work with my office staff to respond to your concerns and ideas. Sometimes, I have the pleasure of welcoming school groups and visitors to the Statehouse, which is always a highlight of my day.



My daily goal is to work collaboratively with others and to diligently review policy initiatives so that my vote matters, which in turn means your vote matters. I am disciplined to do the work and I am not satisfied with just voting favorably because the title of a bill sounds good. This is why you will find that I don't often cosponsor a bill unless I am certain it has merit and that it will not be significantly changed in committee. I think many will attest that I am not a "yes" person. My military training and family upbringing have cultivated strong values of integrity and duty and in doing what is right even when it is difficult.

When necessary, I will initiate a bill to address a problem, but my intent is NOT to create more government than that which is necessary to solve a

problem or to provide for the common good. I believe that less government in our lives is the best government.

My focus is to move Ohio forward and I am concerned about the climbing costs for individuals and families. My commitment to reducing and limiting government spending in our state is as strong as ever!

In this edition of the newsletter, I want to introduce you to my new Legislative Aide Adi.

She has been working at the Statehouse, but is new to the big job of being a Legislative Aide. Adi is very motivated to serve the 86th District and she is excited to help you as best as she can!



Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with your questions or concerns. We will do our best to serve you.

As I close, I encourage you to go to my official website, which is full of information. Please share it with friends you think may want to know more about what I'm doing and what is happening at the Ohio Statehouse.
<https://ohiohouse.gov/members/tracy-m-richardson>

Wishing you a wonderful summer!
-Tracy Richardson

LEGISLATION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4: Ensuring Secure Elections

Recently introduced H.J.R. 4 encourages voters to amend the Ohio Constitution to prohibit non-citizens from voting in any state or local Ohio election. Cities like New York and San Francisco have implemented ordinances to the contrary, so too has the Village of Yellow Springs here in Ohio. This commonsense proposal will ensure that Ohio's elections are decided only by legal citizens of the state.

HOUSE BILL 120: Compassionate Caregivers Act Signed Into Law

My Sub H.B. 120, the Compassionate Caregivers Act, passed unanimously on the Senate floor. Sub. H.B. 120 will now ensure our most vulnerable population has access to their loved ones in compassionate care situations during any future epidemic, pandemic, or state of emergency. It was a process that took much effort and countless individuals to address the problem. We pushed this legislation to ensure the suffering of our most vulnerable never happens again.

HOUSE BILL 441: Protecting Freedom of Speech

H.B. 441 prevents censorship of expressions for Ohioans and Ohio businesses on social media and interactive web platforms. This is a necessary and an ongoing debate in the House, as H.B. 441 has now had six hearings in the House Civil Justice Committee. Our hope is to protect your first amendment right in the modern age.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 195: Condemning Russia for Ukraine Invasion

The House unanimously adopted a resolution which condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We pray for the Ukrainian nation and support their efforts in protecting their freedom.

HOUSE BILL 529: Ensuring Curriculum Transparency in Schools

Now, more than ever, parents desire to be involved and informed with the education of their children. This legislation would require Ohio's public and private k-12 schools and Ohio's public colleges to post curriculum online where lesson plans are readily available to view.

HOUSE BILL 319: Supporting Victims of Human Trafficking

I introduced H.B. 319 which received a first hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee. This bill would provide any human trafficking victim the opportunity to expunge certain criminal records after serving their sentence. H.B. 319 would give human trafficking victims a greater opportunity to fully integrate back into society. We hope to have proponent testimony in committee soon.

SENATE BILL 9: Cutting Bureaucratic Red Tape

S.B. 9 cuts unnecessary bureaucratic red tape, by requiring each state agency to reduce their regulatory restrictions in its rules by 30% by June 30, 2025. Additionally, it would prohibit agencies from adopting new rules that would increase restrictions of the agency's rules. I had the opportunity to vote in favor and co-sponsor this common sense bill.

HOUSE BILL 95: Tax Income Credits for Beginning Farmers

This bill, now law, authorizes nonrefundable income tax credit for beginning farmers who participate in a financial management program equal to the cost of attending the program. Additionally, it creates a tax credit for individuals and businesses who sell or rent agricultural related assets to beginning farmers up to 3.99% of the sale price, gross rental income during the first three years of the rental agreement. This bipartisan effort will benefit our agricultural community and lessen the burden for our next generation of farmers.

HOUSE BILL 291: Legislation Naming Bender Memorial Highway Passes

This bill I introduced is now law. It will create a memorial highway on State Route 309 between Marion-Williamsport Road and Holland Road to honor Deputy Sheriff Bill Bender and Trooper Randy Bender, who were both tragically struck in the line of duty on nine years apart on State Route 309. We are planning a dedication ceremony in July.

HOUSE BILL 324: In-person Patient Visitation Amid Public Health Order

I co-sponsored H.B. 324 on March 2nd when it passed favorably through the House floor. H.B. 324 requires hospitals to permit in-person visits of hospitalized patients during a public health emergency and when a contagious disease is unusually prevalent. Under this bill, in-person visits can be made by a family member, a caregiver, companion, and clergy person of a patient. This bill also prohibits a mandated public health order by the Department of Health or local board of health to prevent reasonable visitation.

SENATE BILL 166: Supporting Career-Technical Education

In March, the House passed S.B. 166, which will provide grants to career-technical planning districts and Ohio technical centers to improve programs that meet workforce needs. With employers needing these positions filled, this bill authorizes a tax credit equal to 15% of the wages participating in a career-tech educational program. It also allows BWC to offer discounts for employers participating, supports driver-education courses, and ensures a permanent access to remote technical training.

HOUSE BILL 598: The Human Life Protection Act

This important legislation would ban abortions in the state of Ohio should the U.S. Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade. Protecting the unborn remains a top priority for me.

HOUSE BILL 591: Creating Human Trafficking Awareness Day

I introduced H.B. 561 with my colleague Representative Jarrells, to designate January 11th as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. It is critical we draw attention to human trafficking prevention. The date, January 11th, is the same date as the federally designated Human Trafficking Awareness Day. We hope to provide sponsor testimony in House State and Local Committee soon.

HOUSE BILL 504: Protecting Religious Spaces and Gatherings

H.B. 504 is crucial in protecting the religious freedom of Ohioans. Under the bill, individuals who prevent or interfere with any meeting of religious worship, or make an offensive gesture or display which disturbs the group can be charged with a first degree misdemeanor. This is a significant increase in the current penalty for such an offense.

UPCOMING LEGISLATION

Supporting Veterans: American Legion

I will soon be introducing legislation that will create an American Legion License Plate. The American Legion is a wonderful organization that supports our veteran community and their families. I am excited to be joint sponsoring this piece of legislation with Representative Lanese.

Supporting Law Enforcement: Funding Law Enforcement Training

We are working on legislation that will permanently fund continuing professional training for peace officers and troopers in Ohio. Currently, the state sporadically funds law enforcement continuing professional training. My colleagues and I are working towards a permanent source, to keep our communities and our law enforcement safe.

SERVING YOU



As I continue my work in the state legislature, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you need assistance with a state issue or would like to share your thoughts with me. I also encourage you to follow my social media for updates on what's happening in Columbus and our community.

 Rep86@ohiohouse.gov

 614-466-8147

I believe the future for Ohio is bright. I remain committed to finding solutions to the challenges we face today in order to make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I hope you have a safe and wonderful start to summer!

Tracy M. Richardson

Tracy Richardson is a member of the Army Reserve. Use of her military rank, job titles, and photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense.

