

A legislative update from
STATE REP. ANITA SOMANI
 HOUSE DISTRICT 11

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From the desk of Rep. Somani

Dear Neighbor,

April was a busy month at the Statehouse! The House passed a two-year \$88 billion Operating Budget that benefits all Ohioans. I am proud of my colleagues who worked hard on this bipartisan budget. The budget includes:

- \$500 million for the All Ohio Future Fund
- Increasing the eligibility for publicly funded childcare to 160% of the federal poverty level
- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates to pay direct service professionals \$17 an hour in FY24 and \$18 an hour in FY25
- Implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan
- Increasing minimum salaries for teachers to \$40,000

This May, we celebrate and honor the culture and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our community. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made tremendous strides towards improving our society. This includes areas of the arts, sciences, medicine, and culture. I am proud to sponsor **House Bill 25** to designate an AAPI Commission alongside Representative Tavia Galonski.

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

Sincerely,

Anita Somani

Anita Somani MD
State Representative
OH District 11



Teacher Appreciation Week

May 8th– May 12th is designated Teacher Appreciation Week!

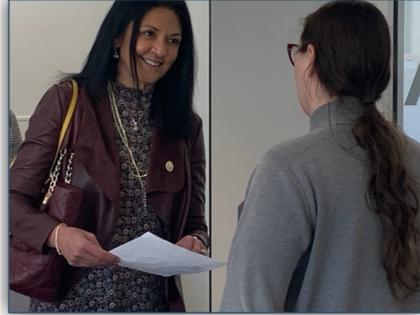
This month, make time to celebrate and acknowledge all the hard work of our teachers and school staff! They are the backbone of our communities, and they deserve recognition.



Reps. Somani & A. Miller Host Community Roundtable/ May Office Hours

In April, Representative Adam Miller and I hosted a community roundtable at the Hilliard Library. This community conversation featured constituents, as well as members of Hilliard City Council, Hilliard City Planning, Hilliard Progressives, and Hilliard City Schools.

We discussed this year's operating budget and how it will benefit Hilliard, bills moving through the Statehouse affecting local governments, like House Bill 1, and answered questions these members had.



I will also be hosting in person office hours for the month of May on Thursday, May 25th from 5-6:30pm at the Dublin Library, Meeting Room 2. Please come with questions or concerns about bills moving through the Statehouse. I would love to meet you all!



JOIN ME:
 THURSDAY, MAY 25TH
 5:00- 6:30 P.M.

COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY DUBLIN BRANCH, ROOM 2
 75 N HIGH ST DUBLIN, OH 43017

REPRESENTATIVE ANITA SOMANI MD
MAY OFFICE HOURS

- Hear updates about legislation moving through the Ohio Statehouse
- Ask questions and share your concerns on local or state issues

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT
 REP 11@OHIOHOUSE.GOV OR 614-466-5358

Anti-Democratic Bills Rushed through the Statehouse

SJR2 and SB 92 are all being rushed through hearings and votes in both the House and Senate. These pieces of legislation undermine the voices of Ohioans, and are undemocratic, unfair, and unpopular. Former governors Bob Taft, John Kasich, Dick Celeste, and Ted Strickland all spoke out against these proposals, showing bipartisan support for protecting the Constitution.

SB 92, which creates an August special election is currently in the House Government Oversight Committee. Pressure from large protests at the Statehouse prompted Republicans to cancel the vote on the bill. Ohioans voices are being heard, and we must continue to apply pressure!

In order for the 60% threshold to be voted on in August, both SJR2 and SB 92 must be passed by the House and signed by the Governor by next **Wednesday, May 10th**. The House will be in Session at 2:00 p.m. that day. You can watch it live on the Ohio Channel at www.ohiochannel.org. Please continue to reach out to Republican offices to urge them not to vote for these pieces of legislation.

Podcast of the Month” The Suburban Women Problem



This month, I will be highlighting a podcast I appeared on in March regarding the Texas ruling on Mifepristone.

On the podcast, I talked about why this ban is dangerous, the safety and effectiveness of Mifepristone, and how we can dispute the argument that this abortion pill is dangerous.

You can listen to the podcast here: www.redwine.blue/the-suburban-women-problem/

New Bill Alert: House Bill 157

My Democratic Colleague Rep. Casey Weinstein and I introduced House Bill 157, which establishes a Hate Crimes Bureau within the Attorney General's office. The Hate Crimes Bureau will conduct independent investigations when sufficient cause exists and will offer resources to assist local, state, and federal law enforcement partners. The Attorney General will be obligated to respond to every credible tip or report.

This legislation is needed now more than ever amid the disturbing number of anti-Semitic , anti-Asian, and anti-LGBTQ incidences in the state, including the Neo-Nazi homeschooling group and numerous Neo-Nazi groups disrupting drag story time events. The bill has been referred to State and Local Committee and does not have any Republican cosponsors.

Out & About

I continued to meet with several great organizations and local groups to discuss issues at the Statehouse and local issues. These included:

- Ohio State Bar Association
- STRS Ohio
- Roto
- Dublin City Council
- Hilliard City Schools Superintendent
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Converge technologies
- SPAN Ohio
- Case Western Reserve Medical Students
- Ophthalmologist Society

I had the pleasure of touring the Hilliard Food Pantry this month. The Food banks received much needed funding in the House Operating Budget. More Ohioans than never are accessing Food Banks, and we need to ensure we are supporting them.

The Hilliard Food Pantry is located at **4410 Cemetery Road**. For more information on the resources offered through the food pantry or to donate, visit www.hilliardfoodpantry.org.

I also attended the historic grand opening of Adelphi Bank in Columbus. This is the first Black-owned bank in Ohio, representing hope for diversity in the financial field. I was proud to attend alongside some Statehouse colleagues as well as Governor DeWine!



Rep. Somani at the Adelphi Bank Opening & Hilliard Food Pantry

HJR1 protests at the Statehouse!

Rep. Somani meeting with ophthalmologists