

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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April 2025

Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland's Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre, Clark-Fulton, & South Hills Neighborhoods!

Dear District 14 Resident:

As a member of Parma City Council and now your state representative, I have always considered myself a consumer hawk. Growing up in a single-parent household, my mom struggled to pay for food, the electric bill, and the lot space for our little mobile home. God forbid she need a new tire or a pipe burst requiring a plumber. I know now that the Lord put me through those difficult times to prepare me for my public service and I put my life experience to use every day at the Ohio Statehouse to be a voice for you - in hopes of playing my part in improving your quality of life.

For instance, in the House of Representatives Energy Committee I am honored to speak for you and all of Ohio's consumers who are paying hundreds of millions of dollars in hidden charges every year on utility bills. In fact, ever since you sent me to Columbus in 2023, I have been fighting to end one of these charges on your electric bill that has cost Ohioans over \$500 million! This charge was added to your bill in 2020 due to H.B. 6 – the most corrupt bill ever passed in state history - which subsidizes two 1950s coal powered electric plants - one of which is located in Indiana!

I am very happy to report that my proposal, *which will save Ohioans who pay an electric bill one-half a billion dollars*, was recently amended into a large energy reform bill by my colleagues on the committee. Amazingly, the bill ended up passing by a vote of 23-1 in committee, then 90-3 on the House floor. No one ever dreamed that this proposal would ever be approved, due to the immense power of the big utilities. I remain overwhelmed with a sense of honor and humility that I am successfully using my position to benefit your pocketbook.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have given sponsor testimony on three more of my bills - all with a different Republican joint-sponsor. One will require utilities to provide you with a more transparent bill so that you know exactly what you are paying for, another will require that Medicaid do a better job of informing folks about their estate recovery program, and the other will require that companies drilling for oil and natural gas under our state parks report what types of chemicals they are using in the process. More on those later.

As always, if my office may ever be of service, we welcome your call or email. I also invite you to visit my website to learn more about how I am serving you and to sign up for this monthly newsletter, which I write myself. You can also read all of my past newsletters going back to January, 2023. Please help by sharing it with others. Thank you for the privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Brennan

State Representative, District 14

77 South High Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan

Former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero serves on the Board of Trustees for the Cuyahoga County Public Library System, where I worked as a page during my college years. Who knew one day that I would be in a position to advocate for funding our beloved libraries at the Ohio Statehouse!



State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Announces State Funding for Police Body Cams

COLUMBUS – **State Rep. Sean Brennan (D-Parma)** today announced that the Parma and Cleveland Metroparks Police Departments are set to receive over \$70,000 to help cover the costs associated with body-worn cameras.

“Among my priorities as state representative is to put my nearly two decades of experience on Parma City Council to work in a bipartisan fashion at the Ohio Statehouse to bring dollars back home to enhance the safety and quality of life for the community. This victory is a tangible example of that commitment,” said **Rep. Brennan**.

The funding is part of the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program that was adopted in the 2024 - 2025 state operating budget, which Rep Brennan championed and supported. In all, the bill set aside \$5 million for 2024 and another \$5 million in 2025 for the program. This year Parma will receive \$50,000 and the Cleveland Metroparks will receive \$22,375.



“Body cameras protect our law enforcement officers who put their lives at risk every day for us. They also protect residents. I am honored to be in a position to help put taxpayer dollars to work for causes like this,” said **Rep. Brennan**. “I am also proud of Mayor Timothy DeGeeter and Metroparks Director Brian Zimmerman and their teams for applying for the grants. This shows that they are being creative at seeking dollars to strengthen the communities they serve.”

The Body-Worn Camera Program was created in 2021 and has funded over 400 local law enforcement agencies. This year, 131 local police departments across Ohio will receive funding.

Rep. Brennan represents Ohio House District 14, which encompasses all of Parma, Parma Heights, Cleveland’s Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre, Clark-Fulton, and South Hills neighborhoods, as well as parts of the Cleveland Metroparks, including Big Creek Parkway in Parma and Parma Heights, West Creek Reservation on Parma’s east side, and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Brighton Park, and the Treadway Creek Trail in Old Brooklyn.

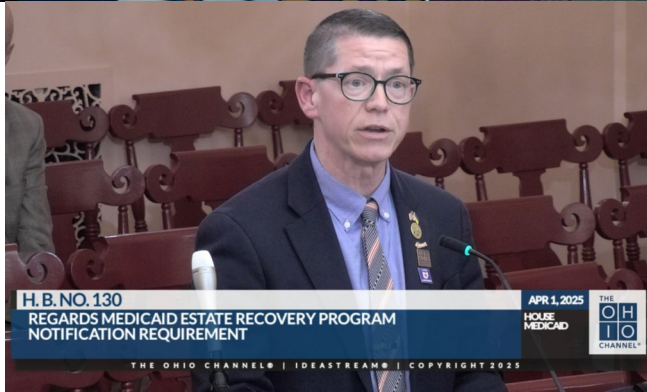
State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Takes Pride in Commending Constituents

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my position as State Representative is commending constituents for their achievements. Whether it is a significant birthday or wedding anniversary, teachers or students doing great things in the classroom, personal achievements, community service, a significant personal milestone or that of a community organization, or the opening of a new business, I am constantly on the lookout for individuals and entities deserving of being recognized by my Statehouse office, such as newly sworn Parma Heights Police Chief Steven Greene. I invite you to reach out to my office to provide us with your suggestions regarding commendations for those deserving of recognition.

*Please call in or send your commendation ideas to
State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan’s office at
614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov*



State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Provides Sponsor Testimony on Bipartisan Medicaid Bill



After you introduce a bill in the Ohio House of Representatives, you have to have a good relationship with the chairperson of the committee it is assigned to because he or she decides which bills get hearings or not. Most bills have three committee hearings. The first is called sponsor testimony. I recently delivered sponsor testimony on H.B. 130. Here is my testimony.

Sponsor Testimony - H.B. 130: Regards the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program

Good afternoon Chairwoman Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee. Thank you for affording us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B. 130 – The Medicaid Estate Recovery Notification Act.

The Medicaid Estate Recovery Program allows the state to seek repayment of Medicaid costs from a beneficiary's estate after they pass away. However, many Ohioans who apply for Medicaid are unaware that the state will seek to recover the costs of services provided from their estate, including their home. In fact, many experts and advocates report very minimal knowledge about the collection program among the elderly and disabled.

When a recipient does not understand the cost of the Estate Recovery Program, they leave their loved ones to shoulder unintended and unanticipated debts and legal complications. That is why we must require better transparency by ensuring that all Medicaid applicants are clearly informed about the program when they apply and when they are approved.

H.B. 130 will require the Department of Medicaid to notify individuals in a uniform manner throughout Ohio about the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program upon applying for Medicaid and to notify them once more when their application is approved. This must include a consumer-focused approach that explains how the program functions in layman's terms, including specific scenarios and a delineation of what is recoverable. In fact, Medicaid recipients are required to be included in developing and review of the notification materials.

Additionally, the bill requires the creation of a notification for Medicaid enrollees who may be at risk of being subject to the Estate Recovery Program that includes a list of available resources, such as consumer support, legal aid, and estate planning resources. These requirements square with the best practices espoused by groups such as the AARP and the Medicaid Commission.

By requiring that Medicaid applicants receive clear, written explanations of the Estate Recovery Program both at the time of application and upon approval, we can ensure that individuals and families can make fully informed financial decisions. Transparency allows families to explore legal options, such as estate planning strategies, to protect assets while still complying with Medicaid rules.

I want to emphasize that for many, Medicaid eligibility is a matter of necessity due to lack of resources and/or the need for long term care. In many circumstances, it is their only choice. H.B. 130 will ensure fairness. The Medicaid Estate Recovery Program can disproportionately affect low-income families and those living with special needs or disabilities. In fact, some criticize the program for exacerbating the challenges for many low-income families to build intergenerational wealth.

Better communication builds trust between Ohio's government and its citizens. When people feel blindsided by estate recovery claims, it can lead to frustration and distrust in the Medicaid system. Providing clear, upfront information ensures that recipients understand their rights and responsibilities, ultimately fostering a more transparent and fair healthcare system.

Ohio has the opportunity to lead in responsible governance by making Medicaid estate recovery policies clearer for all applicants. Let us work together to ensure that no Ohioan is caught off guard by a program meant to help them. Let us advocate for stronger disclosure requirements—because informed decisions lead to better outcomes for everyone.

I want to thank Representative LaRe for allowing me to join him on this important piece of legislation. It is an honor to work with someone who clearly cares about improving the quality of life for Ohioans.

Thank you, Madam Chair for allowing us to present to your committee and for your consideration of a second hearing soon, and thank you to all of the members of the committee for your consideration of support of this consumer-friendly bill.

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Prides Himself on Being an Accessible Public Servant



1&2 – I always feel safe when members of the Fraternal Order of Police and Cleveland Police Patrolmen’s Association visit me in my Statehouse office to talk about public safety policy. 3 - Recently, I spoke to members of the Ohio Education Association (my union), including some hard working members from the Parma Education Association. 4 - I have always been a big fan of the work of our foodbanks, so I meet often with leaders of the Ohio Foodbank Association in Columbus. 5 - I spend a lot of time each month meeting with residents to talk about their concerns. 6 - Thanks to Parma Police Auxiliary Commander George Balasko for honoring me with their 75th anniversary challenge coin. 7 - Thank you to the 4th graders from St. Charles Elementary who recently visited me at the Statehouse!

