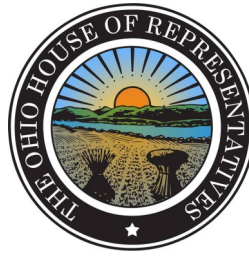


# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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May 2026

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

Dear District 14 Resident:

As your State Representative, **one of my top priorities has always been making life more affordable for working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and young people trying to get ahead.** At a time when the cost of groceries, housing, healthcare, and utilities continues to rise, too many Ohioans are being forced to make impossible choices - between keeping the lights on, filling the gas tank, paying rent, or enjoying a simple night out with their family. No one who works hard and plays by the rules should have to live that way.

That is why I have worked tirelessly to address one of the most overlooked affordability issues facing Ohio consumers: unfair utility billing practices in submetered housing.

For years, many Ohioans living in apartments, condominiums, and manufactured home communities were trapped in arrangements where third-party submetering companies purchased utilities in bulk and resold them to residents - often with confusing bills, excessive fees, higher rates, and fewer protections than customers of traditional utilities. Many of these residents were denied the ability to shop for better energy offers or access important assistance programs. In effect, they were paying much more while having fewer rights. *I believed that was wrong, and I took action.*

Working in a bipartisan way with Representative Tex Fischer, I introduced House Bill 265 to close this loophole and ensure these companies are treated as utilities under Ohio law. Our goal was simple: fairness, accountability, and affordability for Ohio consumers.

Last month, the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has the authority to regulate these submetering companies like utilities - exactly what our bill calls for. This landmark decision is a major victory for consumers who were treated like second-class utility customers and a powerful step toward lowering costs and protecting Ohioans from abusive practices.

This long-awaited ruling means thousands of Ohioans will now have stronger protections, greater transparency, and relief from unchecked utility charges. It also sends a clear message that no company should profit by skirting the rules while people struggle to make ends meet.

I am proud to have led this fight because affordability is not just an economic issue - it is a quality-of-life issue. When families can keep more of their hard-earned money, they can invest in their children, support local businesses, save for the future, and live with greater peace of mind.

There is still more work to do, but I will continue fighting every day to lower costs, protect consumers, and make Ohio a more affordable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

**Sean Patrick Brennan**

State Representative, District 14

77 South High Street, Floor 10

Columbus, Ohio 43215

[ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan](http://ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan)



*As a former teacher, I have always believed in giving bright, young people a chance. When you contact my office, my Legislative Aide, Miles, and my many interns, including Emily, will always respond with respect and empathy. They are great public servants.*

## State Representative Brennan Leads on Rule Banning Addictive, Life-Threatening Synthetic Kratom

COLUMBUS – **State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma)** today issued the following statement after the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) considered a rule from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy banning synthetic kratom compounds.



“As a member of JCARR, I supported allowing this rule to move forward,” said **Rep. Brennan**. “This rule takes an important and targeted approach to addressing serious public health concerns associated with synthetic kratom compounds.”

The rule classifies mitragynine-related compounds (aka kratom) that are synthetic as Schedule I controlled substances. It does not apply to kratom in its natural, vegetative form, such as kratom leaf or ground natural leaf. It also excludes any medication approved by the FDA. The Board of Pharmacy initially enacted a temporary ban on synthetic kratom through an executive order issued by Governor Mike DeWine in December 2025. That emergency rule was set to expire June 10, 2026. By proceeding through the JCARR process without invalidation, the rule can now take effect on a permanent basis.

“Synthetic formulations present a clear and immediate risk,” continued **Rep. Brennan**. “These substances can be significantly more potent than morphine and are often sold in unregulated settings, making them accessible to minors. Allowing this rule to stand helps close that dangerous gap and will save lives.”

**Rep. Brennan**, a former teacher, has been especially moved by stories of Ohioans whose loved ones have died or are terribly addicted to unregulated synthetic kratom products, often sold in convenience stores and gas stations in packaging that appeals particularly to young people.

**Rep. Brennan** also emphasized that broader questions surrounding natural kratom remain under review.

“There are strong and deeply personal perspectives on this issue, reflected in the more than 1,600 public comments submitted on proposals related to natural kratom,” added **Rep. Brennan**. “It is appropriate that we proceed carefully, take in all the evidence, and fully understand the impact before considering any broader action.”

A separate proposal under consideration by the Board of Pharmacy would impose a broader ban on natural kratom, while legislation pending in the Ohio General Assembly seeks to regulate natural kratom products and prohibit synthetic compounds.

“As policymakers, we have a responsibility to act where the risks are clear while continuing to do our due diligence on more complex issues,” concluded **Rep. Brennan**. “Today’s action reflects that balance.”



If you or someone you care about is struggling with addiction, please know that help is available. The Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board connects individuals and families with vital mental health and recovery resources, offering hope and support when it is needed most. This issue is deeply personal to me, as I lost a niece and an uncle to addiction and understand the pain so many families carry. That is why I have worked hard to advocate for stronger mental health and addiction services in our community. In 2025, I was very honored to receive the ADAHMS Board Helping Hands Award in recognition of my advocacy. No one should face addiction alone - please reach out for help at [www.adamhsc.org](http://www.adamhsc.org) or (216) 241-3400.

# State Representative Brennan Visits Tank Plant, Highlights Economic & Moral Case For Support of Ukraine

LIMA, OH – **State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma)** this week visited the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) in Lima as part of his work on the Ohio House Veterans and Military Development Committee and reaffirmed his support for Ukraine as a representative of Parma, which is home to the state’s largest Ukrainian population.

JSMC, operated in partnership with General Dynamics Land Systems and the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, plays a critical role in producing and maintaining the armored vehicles that protect American service members and support U.S. allies abroad. It is the only plant of its kind in North America.

During the bipartisan visit, **Rep. Brennan** toured the Lima facility, which manufactures and refurbishes key military assets including the M1 Abrams tank, Stryker vehicle components, and other armored systems essential to modern defense operations. The plant, which requires a security clearance to enter, spans 369 acres with over 1.6 million square feet of manufacturing space and represents one of the nation’s most important defense industrial sites.

“This facility in Lima is not just a cornerstone of our national defense - it’s a powerful example of how supporting our allies also supports American jobs and strengthens Ohio’s economy,” said **Rep. Brennan**.

**Rep. Brennan** emphasized the direct connection between Ohio manufacturing and global security, particularly in the context of Ukraine’s ongoing defense against Russian aggression. The U.S. Department of Defense has contracted with General Dynamics Land Systems to produce M1A1 Abrams tanks for Ukraine, Poland, and other nations at the Lima facility, demonstrating how American industrial capacity can both defend democracy and drive domestic economic growth.

“Supporting Ukraine is the right thing to do morally - standing with a democracy under attack,” continued **Rep. Brennan**. “But it’s also the smart thing to do economically. The work being done right here in Ohio helps sustain good-paying jobs, strengthens our industrial base, and ensures our military - and our allies - are equipped with the best technology in the world.”

The Lima plant operates as a Government-Owned, Contractor-Operated (GOCO) facility, combining the private-sector with long-term federal oversight to maintain readiness and capability. Its advanced infrastructure supports the production, repair, and modernization of heavy armored vehicles used by U.S. forces and allied nations. The plant is well served by UAW Local 2075 union members.

“As someone who represents Ohio’s Ukrainian capital, I hear directly from families with deep ties to Ukraine,” added **Rep. Brennan**. “They understand what’s at stake. This is about freedom, democracy, and standing up to aggression - and Ohio is playing a key role in that fight.”



While at the meeting, Rep. Brennan had the opportunity to speak to Ohio National Guard Adjutant General Matthew Woodruff. The adjutant general is a member of the governor’s cabinet and is responsible for the command of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, and State Defense Force. The adjutant general supervises the heads of these components in the day-to-day operation and management of the readiness, fiscal, personnel, equipment, and real property resources of the agency.



# Former Educator State Rep. Brennan Issues Statement about Valley Forge High School Incident

Our community is facing an incredibly difficult time, and I remain deeply saddened by this tragedy. My heart goes out to everyone affected and I remain hopeful that a spirit of unity will bring everyone together for the good of the children.

As a father and a former educator who spent 30 years in the classroom, including student teaching and substitute teaching at Valley Forge High School, I have experienced the heartbreak of losing students. I have also lost a family member to suicide. I understand, in a very real and personal way, the grief, fear, and concern that so many families, students, educators, and neighbors are feeling right now.

A large part of why I chose to run for the Ohio House of Representatives was because of the ongoing challenges facing our public schools. For years, schools have been asked to do more and more while receiving less state support. When I first began teaching, shortly after Ohio's school funding system was declared unconstitutional, the state share of public education funding was around 42%. In the most recent budget, *which I voted against*, that share dropped to approximately 31%.

That reduction has real consequences. The Parma City School District, like districts across Ohio, has been defunded by millions of dollars over time. Too often, districts are forced to return to voters simply to maintain programs and invest in critical needs like enhanced safety and security measures.

I have fought consistently for the full implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan and for updating it to reflect current inflationary realities. Had it been fully funded, Parma and other districts would have had the resources needed to better support students, staff, and school safety.

Please know that I have always stood with the Parma City School District. I have supported every levy and grant application they have pursued, and I regularly share information about available funding opportunities, especially those related to safety and student support. As the Ranking Member of the Ohio House Education Committee, I work every day to support our public schools and push back against policies that undermine them.

I remain in regular communication with Parma City School District Superintendent Scott Hunt and members of the Board of Education. I have also been in communication with Dr. Stephen Dackin, Director of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, regarding any assistance that may be available during this difficult time.

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*As a 30 year educator, I love visiting the many schools throughout Parma, Parma Heights, and my Cleveland neighborhoods. I always come away with a smile on my face after meeting the hard working, caring educators and support staff and the students who love their schools. (L-R) Reading to the young scholars at Parma's Ridge Brook Elementary; Spending a morning touring Cleveland's William Raney Harper School with Principal Dr. Monell—a dynamic educational leader; Two of Parma's finest teachers - Mrs. Fyock & Mrs. Oswald; Greeting students at William Raney Harper; Hosting students from St. Columbkille School in the Ohio House of Representatives Chamber at the Ohio Statehouse; Speaking to Mr. Eiben's government students at Padua Franciscan High School; Celebrating Thoreau Park's 100 years of educating Parma's young learners.*

