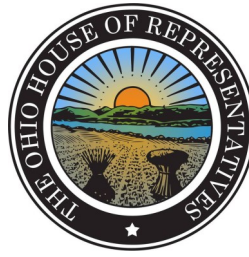


State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

(614) 466-3485 | rep14@ohiohouse.gov



September 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 is making sure Ohio remains a place where working families, seniors, veterans, and everyone who calls our state home can afford to live, work, and raise a family. That means looking beyond the headlines and asking a simple question whenever a new proposal comes forward: **How will this affect the people who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living?**

This month's newsletter highlights some of the work I have been doing to protect Ohio consumers and keep costs down. That includes my efforts before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to push back against efforts by Enbridge to increase natural gas costs on Ohio ratepayers. Families should not be asked to pay more simply because a utility wants to increase its revenue. I will continue to scrutinize these requests and fight for rates that are fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of consumers.

Protecting consumers also means protecting those who have earned our gratitude through their service. I am continuing my work to protect Ohio veterans from "claim sharks" — companies and individuals who take advantage of veterans by charging excessive fees or exploiting them while they pursue the benefits they have earned. Veterans should receive every dollar of benefits to which they are entitled, not see those benefits diminished by predatory practices.

These efforts build on work I have already undertaken at the Statehouse. I was proud to lead the effort to end a subsidy on every Ohioans' electric bill, a change that will save Ohio ratepayers an estimated **\$500 million**. I have also stood up to FirstEnergy when it sought additional time to address power outages, because Ohio families and businesses deserve reliable service and accountability when the power goes out.

Whether the issue is an electric bill, a utility rate, a veteran's hard-earned benefits, or the reliability of the power grid, my approach remains the same: **Ohioans should come first.**

I will continue working to make Ohio more affordable, standing up to unnecessary costs, and making sure consumers have someone in their corner at the Statehouse. And just as importantly, I want to hear from you. If you are facing a problem with a state agency, utility, benefit, or any other issue where my office may be able to help, please reach out. Constituent service is a fundamental part of my job, and I am proud to be your advocate.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Brennan

State Representative, District 14

77 South High Street, Floor 10

Columbus, Ohio 43215

ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan

Like many in Old Brooklyn, Cleveland Ward 4 Councilman Kris Harsh and I are happy that Dahlia Coffee is now open at 4855 Broadview Road! My favorite is the Mexican Mocha!



Rep. Brennan Testifies Against Increases in Natural Gas Bills before Public Utilities Commission Judges

Recently, I testified before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio regarding Enbridge Gas Ohio's proposed rate increase. I appeared before the Commission judges in the case because I believe Ohio consumers deserve someone in their corner when a utility seeks to increase the cost of an essential household service.

Enbridge is seeking approximately **\$163 million in additional annual revenue**, including a significant increase in the fixed monthly charge paid by residential customers. While PUCO Staff has recommended a substantially lower increase, the difference between those proposals underscores why this request deserves careful scrutiny.

As a former public school teacher and now a State Representative, I hear regularly from families who are struggling with the rising cost of simply living in Ohio. Groceries, housing, health care, electricity, insurance and other necessities have all become more expensive. For many families, another increase in their utility bill is not simply an inconvenience — it can mean having to make difficult choices about how to spend limited household dollars. I also know this from growing up in a single-parent household, where my mom struggled to make ends meet.

I told the PUCO judges that I recognize Enbridge has an obligation to maintain a safe and reliable natural gas system. Replacing aging infrastructure and addressing legitimate safety concerns are important responsibilities. But the fact that an expenditure may be necessary does not automatically mean that every dollar requested by the utility should be recovered from customers, nor does it mean the company should receive the rate of return it is requesting.

I am particularly concerned about Enbridge's proposed increase in the **fixed monthly residential charge**. Consumers should have some ability to control their utility bills through conservation and responsible energy use. A fixed charge works in the opposite direction. Whether a family uses a great deal of natural gas or makes significant efforts to conserve, that charge remains the same.

That is especially concerning for seniors, people on fixed incomes, low-income households and families who use relatively little natural gas. We should be encouraging Ohioans to conserve energy and improve efficiency — not making those efforts less meaningful by shifting more of their bills into unavoidable charges.

I also urged the Commission to closely examine Enbridge's requested return on equity. A regulated utility operates differently from an ordinary business. It has a protected service territory and a captive customer base, while the PUCO determines the rates customers must pay. That regulatory structure carries with it a responsibility to ensure that rates are **just, reasonable and affordable** — not simply sufficient to maximize a utility's return.

Ultimately, I asked the Commission to put Ohio consumers first. Any rate approved should be the minimum amount necessary to provide safe and reliable service while protecting customers from unnecessary costs.

Natural gas is not a luxury. It is an essential household service for millions of Ohioans. I will continue to scrutinize proposals that would increase the cost of that service and make sure the voices of Ohio consumers are heard.

I am grateful to the PUCO for allowing me to testify and for its consideration of the concerns I raised on behalf of the people I represent. I will continue to stand up for Ohio families and fight to keep essential services affordable.



Rep. Brennan Stands with Veterans Against Claim Sharks Profiting from Their Injuries



When we talk about honoring the men and women who have served our country, I believe we should do more than offer words of gratitude. We should make sure that veterans are protected from those who would take advantage of them — especially when they are trying to access the benefits they earned through their service.

That is why Rep. Daniel Troy (Willowick) and I introduced **House Bill 961, the V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act**, bipartisan legislation designed to crack down on predatory practices by unaccredited, for-profit veterans' claims assistance companies.

Too often, veterans seeking help navigating the VA benefits system encounter companies that charge excessive fees, provide bad or misleading advice, or promise results they cannot deliver. In some cases, veterans have paid significant portions of their hard-earned benefits to companies that ultimately fail to provide the assistance they promised.

Our legislation would require claims assistance companies operating in Ohio to be accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and would make certain unethical practices subject to Ohio's consumer protection laws. In short, if someone wants to profit from helping Ohio veterans pursue their benefits, they should be properly accredited and held accountable for how they conduct their business.

This legislation is also an example of **bipartisan cooperation** because protecting veterans is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It is an Ohio issue. We have also worked closely with organizations including the **Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars** and the **Veteran Assurance Network** in developing this legislation and understanding the real-world challenges veterans face.

There is a legitimate need for assistance. Every one of Ohio's 88 counties has a Veterans Service Office that can help veterans file claims for free, but the VA benefits system can be complicated, time-consuming and difficult to navigate. Veterans deserve access to knowledgeable assistance — but they also deserve to know that the person offering that assistance is acting in their best interest.

As I said when we announced the bill, *"As legislators, we often talk about honoring our veterans. Today, we have an opportunity to honor them in a very practical, tangible way: by protecting them from fraud, by ensuring they receive honest guidance."*

Our veterans kept their promise to our country. **Now it is our responsibility to keep our promise to them.** House Bill 961 is about making sure that when a veteran seeks the benefits they earned, they are met with honest assistance rather than a predatory scheme.

State Representative Brennan Out and About in District 14's Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland



Visiting with families at the Parma Safety Fair; Speaking to residents at the Old Brooklyn Senior Center; Showing support for our first responders at the Cleveland Night Out Against Crime; Enjoying some fruit with a family at the Parma City School District Back to School event; Congratulating the Parma Young Professionals for serving the community for a decade; Commending Parma resident Rachel Sikon for her academic achievements at Kent State University; Honoring the Sisters of Charity for their 175 years of service to Cleveland's neediest residents; Passing out backpacks at Esperanza's annual Back to School event; Enjoying the grand opening of the Heritage Building in Parma Heights; Meeting up with one of Parma's finest; Hanging out with my favorite constituent at the Ohio State Fair - we celebrated 32 years of marriage this summer!

Coffee with Constituents

Stop by for a one-on-one with State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan

Parma: Thursday, September 17 (9:00—10:00 am)

Love Coffee - 5842 Ridge Road

Parma Heights: Friday, Sept. 18 (9:00 - 10:00 am)

Café Blanc - 6500 Pearl Road

Cleveland (Old Brooklyn): Monday, September 21 (9:00 - 10:00 am)

Kindrid Kava - 2024 W. Schaaf Road

