

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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Dear Neighbor,

February Newsletter

The 136th General Assembly is well underway in Columbus! Last month, we received our committee assignments, allowing us to continue our work on improving our state and communities. I was assigned to the Children and Human Services, Public Safety, and Small Business committees and I am the Ranking Member on the Community Revitalization Committee. These committees are off to a busy start as we work on the state operating budget. We have heard testimony from hundreds of Ohioans who are advocating for their organizations and those they represent. It has been a privilege to hear testimony, meet with, and learn from these various groups, many of whom are from District 22.

Work has already begun on various bills that will be debated and voted on in committee as well as on the floor of the House. I officially introduced two bills this month. The first is **House Bill 97**, which I introduced with Representative Ismail Mohamed (D-Columbus). HB 97 requires schools to provide a meal to any student that requests one regardless of if the student owes a meal debt or can not afford to pay, prohibits refusing a meal to a student as a form of punishment, and prohibits stigmatizing or publicly identifying a student who cannot pay for a meal. The second piece of legislation I introduced this month was **House Bill 120**, which is joint-sponsored by Representative Jennifer Gross (R-West Chester). This bipartisan piece of legislation exempts firearm safety devices, such as locks and safes, from sales tax. The goal of this bill is to prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths by encouraging Ohioans to properly store and secure their guns. We hope this measure promotes responsible storage, reduces accidental shootings, and safeguards our communities—something that both gun owners and non-gun owners can support.

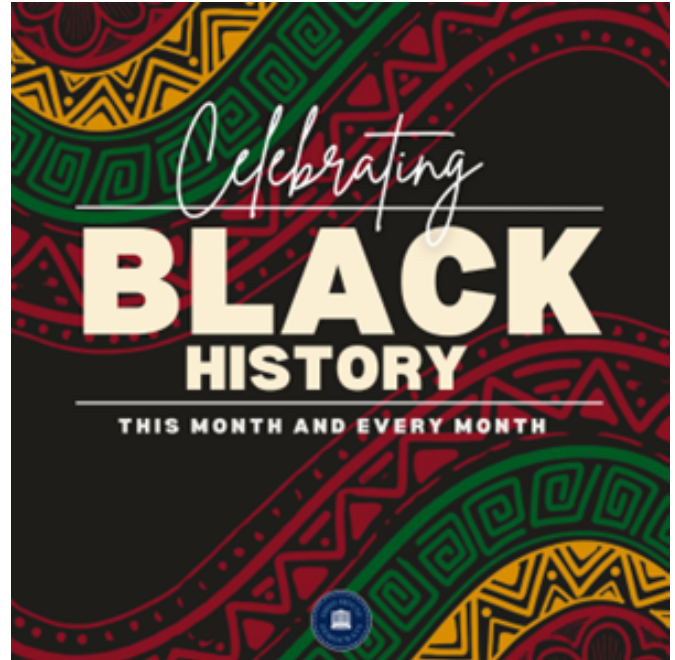
Finally, House districts changed between the 135th and 136th General Assemblies. You can go to <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/district-map> to confirm your House district!

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

State Representative, Ohio House District 22

Black History Month Press Conference

February is Black History Month! My colleagues from the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and I held a press conference where we celebrated Black history and shared multiple pieces of legislation that will benefit Black Ohioans and all residents of our state. Democrats in Ohio are fighting hard every day, building a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. House Democrats are committed to creating a more perfect union that provides freedom, liberty, and equality to us all. Building a state that supports and welcomes everyone has been a long and difficult process, but I am committed to creating lasting and impactful change. That is why we are advocating for criminal justice reform, access to healthcare, support for small businesses, and affordable housing. Democrats are fighting to improve the cost of living so that Ohio is a welcoming, safe, and prosperous state for everyone.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR RIGHTS:

- **You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police, immigration agents, or other officials. Anything you tell an officer can later be used against you in immigration court.**
- **If you are not a U.S. citizen and an immigration agent requests your immigration papers, you must show them if you have them with you.**
- **If an immigration agent asks if they can search you, you have the right to say no. Agents do not have the right to search you or your belongings without your consent or probable cause.**
- **If you are over 18, carry your papers with you at all times. If you do not have them, tell the officer that you want to remain silent, or that you want to consult a lawyer before answering any questions.**

HOW TO REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF:

- **Stay calm. Do not run, resist, or obstruct the officer, even if you believe your rights are being violated. Keep your hands where police can see them.**
 - **Do not lie about your status or provide false documents.**
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RESOURCES

- **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**
 - **Phone: 212-549-2500**
 - **For legal assistance: www.aclu.org/affiliates**
 - **Legal Aid**
 - **Resources for Noncitizens: lasclev.org/noncitizenrights**
 - **Special Intake Phone Line**
 - **Legal Aid has an intake phone number for immigrants who are detained. Call 216-861-5700**
 - **League of United Latin American Citizens**
 - **Resource Guide: https://lulac.org/el_pueblo_unido/**
 - **CRIS Ohio**
 - **<https://www.crisohio.org/>**
 - **National Immigration Detention Hotline**
 - **209-757-3733**
 - **National Immigration Law Center**
 - **<https://www.nilc.org/>**
 - **American Immigration Lawyers Association**
 - **Find an Immigration Lawyer: <https://ailalawyer.com/>**
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