

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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March Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Spring! This season represents a transformation into new beginnings. We survived a long, cold winter here in Northeast, Ohio and now are welcoming the renewal of hope and new possibilities. Similar to the seasons, the Ohio Legislature is in the midst of change. The cold brought by legislation such as Senate Bill 1 and misplaced budget priorities have kept Ohio in the dark, but in this time of uncertainty, there are signs of life beginning to sprout.

Ohio House Democrats are working to protect and advance several budget priorities that will help District 22 and all of Ohio. House Democrats have submitted hundreds of budget amendments, with our top priority being fair and equitable public education funding. We believe the state should pay its fair share and provide direct, state-funded relief for property taxes—rather than shifting the responsibility back onto localities. Two significant property tax measures—House Bill 156 (circuit breaker legislation) and House Bill 103 (an expanded homestead exemption)—have bipartisan support and have been submitted as budget amendments. Both would provide meaningful property tax relief, focusing on ensuring schools do not lose critical funding. In the budget, I am fighting for provisions that support working families and children such as increasing the cutoff for publicly funded child care from 145% to 160% of the federal poverty level and preserving the Child Care Choice Voucher Program at 200%. I am also in full support of the Refundable Child Tax Credit.

Outside of the budget, legislative flowers are beginning to bloom this month as we passed House Bill 15 which creates transparency for utility ratepayers and repeals OVEC subsidies passed in 2019's controversial House Bill 6. I introduced House Bill 165 with my Joint Sponsor Joe Miller (D-Amherst). This legislation will reimburse licensed educators for implicit bias training.

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

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer

State Representative, Ohio House District 22

Ohio House Democrats Celebrate Women's History Month

Happy Women's History Month! This month we honor and support the amazing women who have shaped our state and country. From Florence Ellinwood Allen, the first woman to serve on a state supreme court anywhere in the United States, to Toni Morrison, a renowned author, to Judith Resnick, a NASA astronaut aboard the Space Shuttles Discovery and Challenger.

Ohio House Democrats are committed to advancing women's rights and creating a more equal state. Equal pay, reproductive rights, and quality maternal health are at the forefront of our priorities. We are working hard to ensure that our state is equitable and welcoming to everyone.



Senate Bill 1

The decision by Governor Mike DeWine to sign Senate Bill 1 into law is deeply disappointing and poses a significant threat to the future of higher education in Ohio. This bill also marks the first step toward eroding hard-won workers' rights across our state by restricting faculty rights in our public universities, driving away students through harmful policies, and undermining programs that foster inclusion and critical thinking.

Instead of investing in a thriving, competitive academic environment, SB 1 censors crucial discussions and alienates the very educators and students who drive Ohio's progress. Our state deserves better than legislation that stifles growth, limits opportunity, and weakens the voices of those committed to shaping the next generation. We will continue to oppose policies that threaten the academic freedoms, labor rights, and educational excellence cherished by Ohioans.



Ohio House Democrats Help Pass Transportation Budget

House Democrats last month helped pass the bipartisan Ohio Transportation Budget (House Bill 54) through the Ohio House of Representatives. The budget's appropriation of \$11.5B is a significant investment into the future of Ohio jobs, connecting the workforce to the worksite, and the bill will improve roads, bridges, and transit systems across Ohio.

Some provisions fought for by Rep. Brewer and included in House Bill (HB) 54:

- Provides \$8B in statewide highway construction and maintenance projects over the Biennium;
- Makes progress toward meeting the state's significant public transportation needs by appropriating nearly \$200M for public transit, including \$30M to continue the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program;
- Authorizes the continued distribution of gas tax revenue to cities, counties, and townships across Ohio to support local road maintenance;
- Appropriates \$18M for Transportation Improvement Districts to invest in local infrastructure across the state;
- Protects construction workers on the highway by establishing the Road Safety Pilot Program to assess speed compliance in construction zones, but prohibits using traffic law photo devices for any purpose, including a citation, summons, or ticket;
- Adopts the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact, which creates the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission and earmarks \$25K in each fiscal year to pay for the costs associated with joining the compact;
- Continues funding commitments to the Brent Spence Bridge;

HB 54 passed the House by a 97-0 vote. It now heads to the Ohio Senate for consideration.



People First Town Hall!

- Thursday, April 17th at 6:00 PM
- Garfield Heights Civic Center, Room 117, 5407 Turney Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

Join us for an interactive discussion on:

- Gun Violence
- Senate Bill 1
- Public Education
- Property Taxes
- And more

Bring your questions, comments, and concerns!



**Hosted by State
Representatives
Darnell Brewer and
Terrence Upchurch**



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