

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 22

(614) 466-1414

rep22@ohiohouse.gov



@RepBrewer



@rep.brewer



June Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

This month the Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 96, the state operating budget. In this newsletter I share why I chose to vote no.

Despite my deep disappointment in the budget, I will continue to advocate for legislation that uplifts all Ohioans. That is why this month I introduced the Community Safety and Solutions Agenda, and the P.L.A.N. Ohio Town Halls and Resource Fairs which are outlined in this newsletter. In response to the misguided legislation that continues to be prioritized, we must keep organizing.

As always I love hearing from my constituents, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer
State Representative
Ohio House District 22



Visit Rep. Brewer's Legislative Website Using the QR Code Above!



Why I Voted NO on the Budget

I voted NO on the Republican-crafted state operating budget, because of its cruel and chaotic cuts and its abject failure to invest in children, public education, healthcare, and basic services – all while shoveling billions to the wealthy and well-connected. Below are my main concerns:

- **An Income Tax Scam for the Ultra-Wealthy:** Republicans call it a “flat tax” but it’s really a fat tax cut only for the wealthiest few. Four out of every five Ohioans will see \$5 or less under the bill, while someone making \$1M gets a \$7K tax break. The choice to include this flat tax will cost the state \$1.67B over the next two years. Cutting taxes only for the wealthiest isn’t going to solve the real problems facing Ohioans. It’s not going to make childcare cheaper; it’s not going to make the cost of rent or healthcare go down, and it’s definitely not going to lower rising property taxes.
- **Gutting Public Schools:** For decades, the state legislature has failed to uphold its share of responsibility to provide adequate state funding for public education. This budget continues to prioritize billions in vouchers for private schools over the investments we should be making in the public schools where 90% of students in the state go to school. The Fair School Funding Plan is a bipartisan, constitutional solution developed by education experts, and Ohio has the resources to fully and fairly fund it. Yet the statehouse republicans deliberately chose to ignore the evidence and continue to underfund our schools.
- **Forcing Schools to Put More Property Tax Levies on the Ballot:** This budget passes the buck on property tax relief by trying to raid savings accounts that school districts have diligently invested in, instead of the state stepping up to provide the relief. This will only force more schools to put levies on the ballot more often to stay open, so either your taxes will keep going up or your schools will be closing because the state is failing to act.
- **Fewer Childcare Slots to Support Working Ohioans:** Families need childcare so parents can work, and kids can receive quality early education, but we continue to lag behind the rest of the country when it comes to access and affordability of childcare. This is a question of who we are prioritizing, and the budget is making the wrong choice when it comes to helping families afford childcare.

Continued on next page...

Why I Voted NO on the Budget

- **Jeopardizing Healthcare Access:** Almost 800K Ohioans will be at risk of immediately losing their health insurance and all Ohioans will see hospitals and providers in their communities at risk of closing. For years, Republicans have targeted Medicaid expansion. Now they're using a draconian and unnecessary trigger law to strip healthcare coverage from hundreds of thousands of Ohioans if the federal government lowers its contribution by even a single dollar.
- **Betraying Public Libraries:** Eliminates the century-old commitment to consistent funding that has made Ohio's libraries among the best in the nation and reduces state support compared to current law. In every future budget, library funding will be at the whim of a legislature that we have seen is hostile to the free flow of information.
- **Attacks on Collective Bargaining and Organized Labor:** Prohibits workers from negotiating about their working location assignments both in an education setting and as a state employee. Conversations around work reporting locations are critical so that employees can effectively perform their job duties without wasted time and costs, better serving the people of Ohio and the students in our schools.
- **Overriding the Will of the Voters on Cannabis Funding:** Voters overwhelmingly passed Issue 2 and were clear about how they wanted their tax dollars spent. This budget overrides the 57% of Ohioans who made those choices, and instead chooses to redirect most of the tax dollars to a budget that subsidizes billionaire stadiums.

HB 96 passed the Ohio House of Representatives by a vote of 59-38 Wednesday. It now heads to Governor DeWine for signature. While the Governor may mitigate some harm through a line-item veto, this budget remains one of the most immoral in Ohio history. This is the first budget to pass without a single Democratic vote in more than a decade.



Rep. Brewer
speaks on House
floor.



Community Safety and Solutions Agenda

In honor of Gun Violence Prevention Month, I introduced the Community Safety and Solutions Agenda, a multi-billed legislative package that aims to address community violence and the causes of gun violence in District 22 and all throughout Ohio.

The Community Safety and Solutions Agenda includes:

- **HR 148: Safe Firearm Storage Resolution** (Bipartisan)
 - Promotes responsible gun ownership and safe storage to prevent unauthorized access.
- **HB 358: Safe Firearm Storage Education Act** (Bipartisan)
 - Directs state agencies to distribute multilingual firearm safety materials through schools and public spaces.
- **HB 328: Fit, Safe, and Strong Communities Act** (Bipartisan)
 - Establishes a state grant program to renovate and build safe, ADA-accessible playgrounds using unclaimed funds.
- **HB 352: Closing the “Boyfriend Loophole” Act**
 - Expands protections for victims of dating violence by aligning Ohio law with federal firearm restrictions.
- **Building Healthier Communities Act**
 - Creates grants for localities that declare gun violence a public health crisis and wish to establish Offices of Youth Prevention, Intervention & Opportunity.
- **HB 235: Handgun Safety Tax Credit**
 - Offers tax credits to Ohioans who complete firearm safety training and purchase secure storage devices.
- **HB 120: Firearm Safety Device Tax Exemption** (Bipartisan)
 - Removes sales tax on gun safes, locks, and other firearm security tools.
- **HB 97: Access to School Meals**
 - Ensures no child is denied a meal due to poverty, recognizing the link between hunger and youth violence.
- **Resolution to Recognize Victims of Police-Involved Deaths in Ohio**
 - Acknowledges over 1.5K lives lost since 2000 and calls for reforms in training, transparency, and de-escalation.
- **HB 351: Establish the Ohio Taskforce on Gun Violence**
 - Brings together state leaders, public health experts, and community voices to develop long-term solutions.
- **Support for “Stop the Bleed” Emergency Response Training**
 - Equips Ohioans with life-saving trauma intervention skills for use in emergencies.

P.L.A.N. Ohio Town Halls and Resource Fairs

Along with the legislative package, I also announced the launch of a statewide town hall tour titled P.L.A.N. Ohio: Prevent. Learn. Act. Navigate., featuring a series of town halls and community resource fairs in the districts most affected by gun violence.

The P.L.A.N. Ohio initiative aims to:

- Prevent gun violence through education and firearm safety;
- Learn life-saving trauma response techniques like Stop the Bleed;
- Act through advocacy and civic engagement; and
- Navigate resources for mental health, youth programming, and victim support.

Each event will include safe storage demonstrations (in partnership with community organizations such as Be SMART and Moms Demand Action), trauma response training, survivor testimonies, and access to local services and youth programming. Be on the lookout for an upcoming announcement of locations and dates.



Rep. Brewer announces legislative agenda and town hall tour at Gun Violence Prevention Press Conference.