

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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May Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

The Ohio House was back in session in May. My office was busy with committees, press conferences, meetings, and introducing fourteen new bills. This month's newsletter will provide details on all bills recently introduced.

This month I had the privilege of graduating from the University of Chicago's Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy (CVILA). CVILA is a first of its kind education program designed for CVI leaders to deepen program implementation skills, connect with others in the CVI field, and promote CVI policies. My capstone project focused on building a coordinated public health violence prevention program in Ohio. I look forward to bringing what I learned to District 22!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is crucial to encourage open conversations about mental health conditions, while helping to reduce the stigma that often prevents individuals from seeking help. We must continue to invest in providers of mental health services to guarantee that every Ohioan has the support they need. For more resources, visit dbh.ohio.gov.

I am proud to be your state representative. I want to hear from you! My office is happy and ready to help you with any state related issue or just to listen to your thoughts about state government. Always remember, I work for you. I hope you'll reach out. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer
State Representative
Ohio House District 22



On May 7th, I hosted a press conference to introduce **Amya's Law**. This bill is named after 11-year-old Amya Frazier, whose life was cut short in a preventable incident involving an unsecured firearm. I was joined by the family of Amya Frazier to discuss the bill that would hold firearm owners accountable if a minor gains access to their negligently stored firearm and uses it to cause physical harm.

Amya's Law includes:

- First degree misdemeanor for improper storage resulting in a minor causing physical harm to themselves or others.
- Fourth degree felony for improper storage resulting in a minor causing serious physical harm to themselves or others.
- A nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$250 for gun safes, lockboxes, and trigger locks.
- A sales tax exemption for firearm safety devices.
- A voluntary temporary storage option for gun owners to store firearms with a licensed dealer or law enforcement agency during difficult or high-risk periods.
- Creates a free, safe storage educational pamphlet published by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Amya's Law is built on one clear principle: Responsible gun ownership includes protecting children from unauthorized access.



The Amya's Law press conference.

I introduced 14 pieces of legislation this month. Below is a summary of each bill.

- House Bill 830 - Establishes the violent crime reduction grant program
 - Dedicated funding for violent crime investigations.
 - Support for proven crime-reduction strategies.
 - Improves clearance rates for violent crimes.
 - Increases Transparency and measurable outcomes.
- House Bill 870 - Establishes the Mental Health Systems Coordination and Crisis Prevention Commission
 - Studies Gaps in mental health care, service coordination, and crisis interventions.
 - Promotes collaboration between, agencies, providers, and families.
- House Bill 871 - Designates June as gun violence awareness month
 - Highlights gun violence as a leading public safety crisis in ohio.
 - Encourages actions that support victims and survivors, influence policy decisions, and promote safety behaviors.
- House Bill 872 - Establishes the economic task force on gun violence and violent crimes
 - Studies the impact of gun violence and other violent crimes on Ohio businesses.
 - Brings together policy makers, business owners, and violence prevention experts to collaborate on policy recommendations.
- House Bill 894 - Security and judgement suspension reform
 - Amends the debt related driver's license suspension process.
 - Holds uninsured drivers accountable while allowing for limited driving privileges.
 - Will increase the rate of debt repayment.



Legislation Introduced in May

- House Bill 895 - Ohio custody mediation and orientation act
 - Requires mediation before trial on contested parenting matters, unless deemed unsafe.
 - Requires orientation, for parents to learn about mediation, their rights and responsibilities, and available resources for parenting education.
- House Bill 896 - Parents' Rights In child welfare cases
 - Creates a parents' bill of rights pamphlet to be distributed by ODJFS.
 - Requires guardians to promptly receive information on allegations that lead to child's removal, date and time of hearing, copy of complaint and affidavit supporting removal, and parents' bill of rights.
- House Bill 897 - Trauma informed care for guardians ad litem
 - Requires guardians ad litem and court appointed special advocates to complete at least 3 hours of trauma informed care training every 2 years.
 - Training would build understand how trauma affects brain development, emotional regulation, and attachment.
- House Bill 898 - Putative fathers matter act
 - Creates explicit notice requirements to registered putative fathers in juvenile cases involving abuse, neglect, dependency, and termination of parental rights.
 - Requires a mandatory registry search before key juvenile hearings.
 - Modernizes the notification process by authorizing supplemental service through email and text messages.
- House Bill 899 - Foster care secure storage
 - Requires foster caregivers to securely store firearms.
 - does not prevent foster caregivers from owning a firearm.
 - The Department of Children and Youth will be responsible for verifying compliance.



Legislation Introduced in May

- House Bill 900 - Creates the office of violence prevention within the Department of Health
 - Establishes a targeted, statewide framework within the Ohio DOH to ensure that communities have the tools, partnerships, and evidence-based strategies needed to keep Ohioans safe.
- House Bill 901 - Amya's Law
 - Adds penalties for child access to a negligently stored firearm, resulting in physical harm.
 - Tax credit for the purchase firearm safety devices.
 - A sales tax exemption for firearm safety devices.
 - Voluntary temporary storage option for gun owners during high risk periods.
- House Bill 909 - Keep Every Home Safe Act
 - Requires secure storage of a firearm when not in the possession of an owner.
 - Income tax credit for the purchase of secure storage equipment and training.
 - Allows home insurance providers to offer discounts for secure storage.
 - Allows proof of secure storage as affirmative defense in legal proceedings.
 - Ensures low cost mental health services for impacted families.
- NBCSL Resolution - Celebrates the National Black Caucus of State Legislators 50th anniversary
 - Since its founding, NBCSL has served as a national network and clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas, research, and best practices among Black state legislators and their staff.

House Bill 393

At the end of May House Bill 393 was signed into law! This legislation requires community based correctional facilities and halfway houses to assist residents in obtaining a state ID.



Meeting With NAACP Cleveland Branch

This month, my office met with members of the NAACP Cleveland Branch. We discussed topics including voting access, public safety, education, healthcare, and small business development. Thank you to all who made the trip to Columbus!

