

from the desk of

STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE COCKLEY



FEBRUARY 2026 | STATEHOUSE UPDATE | HOUSE DISTRICT 6



Dear District 6 Neighbor,

Happy Black History Month! This February, we first took time to honor the contributions the Black community makes to Ohio and the 6th district. Black history is American history. As we honor the achievements and contributions of Black Ohioans, we remain focused on advancing policies that remove systemic barriers and ensure every Ohioan has the tools needed to thrive.

In addition, I had the pleasure of speaking with Mike Kallmeyer of Spectrum News to discuss our efforts in regulating the Artificial Intelligence industry, especially as it relates to mental health. During the interview, we discussed a myriad of legislation aimed at regulating AI.

Included in this conversation was my bill: HB 524. It aims to ensure companies that utilize AI are regulated to avoid any encouragement of self-harm. We have already seen several tragic examples of why this is needed.

Rep. Cockley on Spectrum News discussing her ongoing advocacy and legislative progress regarding AI regulation.

As the debate around AI continues, it is vital that AI regulation is left up to the states. As discussed in the interview, a one-size-fits-all approach inhibits our ability to protect our constituents. Thus, we are urging Congress to reject any moratorium on state laws regarding AI. While we have much work to do, I believe these are important first steps towards a safer future for Ohio.

Yours in service,

Christine Cockley



Rep. Cockley attending Boy Scout Troop 33 Spaghetti Dinner.



Rep. Cockley presented with The Ohio Conservation Champion Award by The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund.



Rep. Cockley meeting with members of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.



Rep. Cockley leading a read-aloud at Hilltop Library's Family Storytime.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - HB 472

HB 472 - REGARDS WAVING ID & BIRTH CERTIFICATE FEES FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS



Rep. Cockley and her joint sponsor, Rep. Salvo testifying in support of HB 472

As a primary sponsor of **House Bill (HB) 472**, I am excited to share that the bill has passed the House. I appreciated the opportunity to speak in its support on the House floor last week and to highlight the meaningful impact it will have. I will continue working proudly alongside Rep. Salvo as this legislation advances in the legislative process.

Having proper identification is a critical first step in rebuilding one's life. These documents are not a luxury—they are a basic necessity for navigating the world and accessing vital services. Yet today, they remain out of reach for too many, especially our youth.

HB 472 waives the fee for one certified birth certificate annually for individuals who are experiencing homelessness. The bill also permits unaccompanied and homeless youth under the age of 18 to receive a free state identification card.

Access to identification is more than a bureaucratic step—it is often the key to employment, housing, and healthcare. By helping Ohioans obtain IDs, we empower them to move forward, reduce reliance on costly public systems, and rebuild their lives. This legislation provides Ohio with an important opportunity to support long-term success, reduce cycles of poverty, and help individuals reintegrate into their communities with dignity.

The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 23rd and currently awaits committee assignment.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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- Connecting you with neighborhood resources
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