



Dear Neighbor-

Happy April! March has been an extremely busy month at the Statehouse. As a new legislator, I continue to learn the job – meeting with constituents, learning about the incredible work happening in the district, and understanding how the processes and procedures of the state government works.

We jumped quickly to the Biennial Operating Budget season. My main focus was working together with Democratic caucus colleagues and policy staff to read through the entire budget (almost 4,000 pages long), to ensure we understand it before it comes to a vote. Our state agencies provide so many crucial services to Ohioans, and it is now my duty to help protect and invest in the programs that keep Ohioans safe, healthy, and financially stable.

As of this writing, the substitute operating budget bill was released a few days ago by the supermajority caucus, and includes cuts, partial and complete, for many vital services in the state. Public education, public libraries, and many health and human services are on the chopping block.

I continue to work with House Democrats to understand, advocate, and negotiate for a more inclusive budget for Ohio. I promise to listen to you and represent your voices. I believe that if Ohio invests in its citizens, we are investing in a better future.

Sincerely, **Karen Brownlee** State Representative Ohio House District 28



Rep. Brownlee with Hamilton County social workers at the National Association of Social Workers Advocacy Day!



Addressing the House Floor in opposition to SB-1



We loved having UC Blue Ash students and faculty visit us at the Statehouse!

## **Ohio House Democrats Celebrate Women's History Month**

Last month, the Ohio House Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus (ODWLC) hosted a press conference in celebration of Women's History Month, where members highlighted legislative priorities Democrats are fighting for that empower and support women and families across Ohio.

ODWLC members poke on several pieces of legislation, including:

Reproductive Care Act (Somani, Tims)
Ohio Equal Pay Act (Brent, Lawson-Rowe)
Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Act (Baker)
Anti-discrimination bill (Rader, Lett)

Other important bills Representative Brownlee is cosponsoring include:

Increase the State Minimum Wage Act (Jarrells, Mohamed)
Require Public Schools to Provide Meals and Related
Services Act (Brewer, Mohamed)]
Enact the No Hungry Families Act (Rader, Tims)

House Republicans have not taken any serious measures to advance these proposed pieces of legislation. House Democrats are committed to creating a state that works for and supports all Ohioans, regardless of race, gender, income, and zip code.



Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus addresses priorities for women and families across Ohio





Also in April, taxes are due by April 15th! Make sure you file your taxes and take advantage of any returns you may be offered. If you cannot file your taxes by April 15th, make sure to request an extension which will give you until October 15th to file your tax return.

