



September 2021 Legislative Update from
STATE REP. JUANITA BRENT
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From the desk of Rep. Brent

Dear Neighbor,

The month of September brings the beginning of a new school year, signifying a fresh start for students and families across Ohio. There are many things to celebrate this month, including Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah, and many opportunities for reflection, including National Suicide Prevention Week and National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day.

The General Assembly is still on summer recess this month, leaving me with more time to engage with the communities in my district. I will be hosting a series of Town Halls in various areas of Cleveland to give my constituents an opportunity to share their thoughts, questions, and worries with me. These events will be free and open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend! The locations and schedule are listed below.

I look forward to continuing to serve the people of District 12 this month. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

State Representative Juanita O. Brent
 Ohio House District 12

World Suicide Prevention Day & National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

Falling on September 10th, World Suicide Prevention Day is a time to remember those who have been affected by suicide, to raise awareness of treatment options, and to focus efforts on improving access to these treatments for anyone who may need it. Communities should use this time to check in with each other and share mental health resources, such as the 988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline.

September 18th represents National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day. This day is meant to focus attention on issues faced by older Americans struggling with HIV/AIDS. Today, as a result of improved treatment, people with HIV/AIDS are living longer, healthier lives. This is why it is important to reduce the stigma around older individuals with the infection and promote prevention, testing, and treatment among aging populations.



Getting Ready for Winter – Home Energy Assistance Program

Winter is right around the corner, which means gas and other home energy bills will soon be on the rise. The federally funded Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program helps eligible Ohioans that have been disconnected or are struggling to pay for their home energy bills. Eligibility is based on household income, with a maximum income of \$23,782 for one person, adding \$8,260 for each additional member. The steps to apply for this benefit are listed below.

1. Visit <https://development.ohio.gov>
2. Search Energy Assistance
3. Click Home Energy Assistance Program
4. Click Complete an Application.

TOWN HALL
 with State Representative
Juanita O. Brent

Monday September 12 6:30pm Cleveland Hts Community Center
Tuesday September 20 6:30pm Orange High School (Pepper Pike)
Tuesday September 27 6:30pm Maple Hts Senior Center (Maple Hts)
Thursday September 28 6:30pm Harvard Community Service Center (CLE)
Tuesday October 4 6:30pm Fellowship Church of God (Bedford hts)

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Biden's Student Loan Debt Forgiveness Plan

The Biden Administration recently announced their plan for forgiving student loan debt. Here are the key points of this plan.

- \$20,000 of debt forgiven if you went to college on Pell Grants
- \$10,000 of debt forgiven if you did not receive Pell Grants
- This forgiveness only applies to those earning less than \$125,000 a year
- Student loan payments will resume on January 1st, 2023
- Undergraduate loan repayment can be capped at 5% of your monthly income

Lake Erie Grant Opportunity

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is looking for proposals for their new grant program, The Lake Erie Communities and Coastal Resilience Grant. This program will offer one year grants of up to \$250,000 for projects in the eight Ohio Lake Erie coastal counties. These counties include Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Erie, Sandusky, Ottawa, and Lucas.

Project proposals are due on October 3rd, 2022, and grant recipients will be announced later in the fall. Proposals should focus on coastal resilience and protection in Lake Erie, ideally with an emphasis on improving underserved communities. Application materials and further information can be found on the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's website, at <https://lakeerie.ohio.gov/funding-opportunities/coastal-resilience>.

Free Internet Access from AT&T

As a new school year begins, AT&T is focusing on improving learning opportunities for all students by providing free internet to eligible households. This is made possible by a combination of AT&T's existing low-cost internet access program with federal benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program. As a result, more students will be able to have access to reliable, high-speed internet.

To see if your household is eligible for this program, first apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program. This can be done at [ACPbenefit.org](https://acpbenefit.org). After verifying your eligibility, you can call AT&T at (855) 220-5211 to determine your internet plan. Further information can be found at att.com/internet/access.

Out and About with Rep. Brent

Representative Brent has been using her summer break to engage with the communities and organizations in both her current district, H.D. 12, her new district, H.D. 21, and Ohio as a whole. Here are some of the things she has been up to!



Toured the **Buckeye Relief Cannabis Center** on Harvest Day



Attended the **Cleveland Animal Protection League** ribbon cutting



Attended the **Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Meeting**



Participated in the **House Agriculture Committee Hearing** at the Ohio State Fair