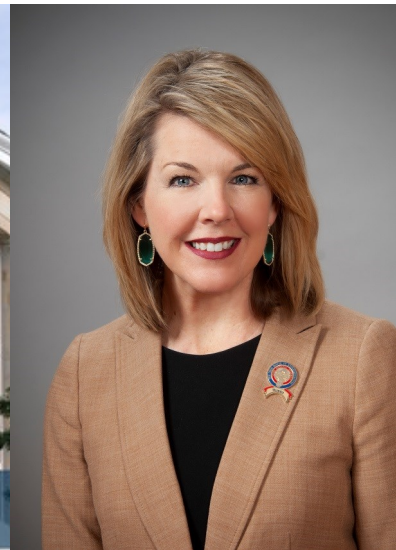




A legislative update from
STATE REP. ALLISON RUSSO
HOUSE DISTRICT 07

(614) 466-8012 | rep07@ohiohouse.gov

 @OHHouseDems
 @ohiohousedems



From the desk of Rep. Russo

Dear Neighbor,

We are already more than half way through the 135th General Assembly! It has been an honor serving you thus far and I am excited for the opportunity to continue to put people first.

This past month the Republicans overrode the governor's veto of **HB 68**, something that the House Democratic Caucus stands firmly against. Once again, the Supermajority is ignoring the real needs of Ohioans and wasting time and resources to pursue culture wars, not policy. Healthcare should be left to families and doctors, not politicians. House Democrats will always stand with the LGBTQ+ community, championing legislation that protects their rights and recognizes them as vital members of our communities.

On the 15th of February, the House Minority Caucus will be hosting the Gun Violence Prevention Summit. This pioneering event will gather stakeholders from around the country and Ohio to the Statehouse in an effort to push dialogue on stemming the tide of gun violence in the state. Space is limited, so if you would like to attend the summit, please RSVP at this link: <https://bit.ly/GVPSummit24>

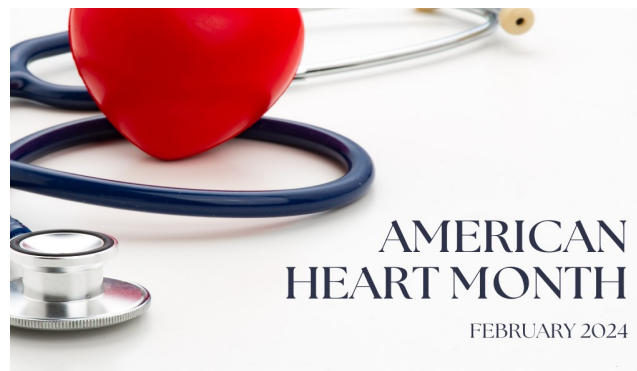
It has been a year since the catastrophic Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The derailment is an environmental disaster; the true magnitude and long-term impacts of which remain uncertain. House Democrats successfully advocated for historic rail safety reforms in the most recent state transportation budget and are committed to pursuing lasting reforms that instill public confidence in the state's commitment to preventing future railway catastrophes.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,
C. Allison Russo
State Representative



February is Black History Month! Black history is American history, and Black voices, experiences, and people have shaped our state and country. Democrats in Ohio are fighting hard every day, building a state that supports and uplifts Black Ohioans. House Democrats are committed to creating a more perfect union that provides freedom, liberty, and equality to us all. Building a state that supports and welcomes everyone has been a long and difficult process, but I am committed to creating lasting, impactful change.



As the leading cause of death in the United States, heart diseases impact millions of lives each year. This designated month is an opportunity to educate the public about risk factors, healthy lifestyle choices, and early detection of heart-related issues.



House Democrats Fight Against Corruption in Ohio

On January 30th the House Minority Caucus held a press conference unveiling the first step in our Cost of Corruption legislation package. House Democrats introduced multiple pieces of legislation aimed at weeding out corruption, strengthening ethics, protecting against and correcting wrongs created by the First Energy scandal, the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio's history.



- The **Ohio Anti-Corruption Act** (House Bill 112, Reps. Miranda/Sweeney) would require dark money groups to identify their contributors and disclose their spending.

- The **HB 6 Repeal and Repay Act** (House Bill 120, Reps. Weinstein/Brennan) would fully repeal and refund subsidies established in HB 6 during the 133rd General Assembly that are still being paid by Ohioans to bail out two Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (OVEC) coal-fired power plants—one of which is located in Indiana.
- The **PUCO Nomination Reform Act** (House Bill 363, Rep. Troy) would adjust the broken nomination process involving the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), preventing individuals like Sam Randazzo, the former chair of the PUCO, who was indicted for taking \$4.3 million in bribes in exchange for helping FirstEnergy conduct nefarious activities.
- The **PUCO Consumer Refund Act** (Rep. Baker) would require PUCO to order refunds to consumers in the event that a utility charges are unlawful by the Ohio Supreme Court. Upon determination that utility charges are unlawful, full refunds would be required to be issued within 120 days.



In the District

January was a busy month in the district. Representative Russo began the year attending the swearing-in ceremonies of local City Council and School Board members. Congratulations to all new local electeds and leadership teams! Other notable stops in the district included:

- Addressing the Central Ohio chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio to provide a legislative update and understand their workforce challenges.
- Touring the new state-of-the-art facility of one of Ohio's first medical marijuana companies, CannaMed Therapeutics LLC, to learn more about the impacts of Issue 2 on local growers, processors, and dispensaries.
- Celebrating the groundbreaking of the Multispecies Animal Learning Center at The Ohio State University, which received \$10M in funding in the recent state operating budget.



February News from Rep. Russo

For all news from Rep. Russo's office, please visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/c-allison-russo/news>