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Dear Neighbor,

Happy April! This month, we turn our attention to the 2024 State of the State address. We will be hard at work to guarantee that Ohioans are supported and have the ability to thrive here in Ohio. House Democrats are committed to working together to ensure all Ohioans—no matter your race, gender or economic status—have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive.

April is National Minority Health Month, a time to focus on the health disparities in minority communities across the state and country. Latina and Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than white women. In addition, infant mortality rates among Black Americans and Native groups are higher than other racial or ethnic groups in the United States. Eliminating health disparities is one of the most important issues facing our state. Democrats will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone can thrive here in Ohio.

Keep in mind, 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, be sure to request an extension which will give you until October 15th to file your tax return.

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

Sincerely,

C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 7



NATIONAL
DISTRACTED
DRIVING
AWARENESS

DID YOU
KNOW?

Accidents caused by distracted driving killed 3,522 people in 2021, alone. National Distracted Driving Awareness Month is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should! #JustDrive



WORLD
Health
DAY

OHIO HOUSE DEMOCRATS

April is a time to recognize important public health concerns and hosts National Public Health and Black Maternal Health Week, as well as World Health Day. As we reflect on this essential need, let's acknowledge the rights of everyone—no matter who you are—to have access to quality health services, education, and information.

Ohio House Democrats Celebrated Women's History Month

Last month, House Democrats hosted the Women's History Month Legislative News Conference where members highlighted legislative priorities Democrats are fighting for that empower and support women across Ohio. House Democrats have introduced several pieces of legislation, including:

- [Reproductive Care Act— HB 343](#)
To preserve the medical privacy and legal protection of pregnant patients and healthcare providers by bringing the Ohio Revised Code in line with protections provided in the Ohio Constitution.
- [Ohio Equal Pay Act— HB 115](#)
To ensure fair pay for equal work.
- [Ohio Safe Homes Act— HB 143](#)
To protect the home-security of survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.
- [Keeping Our Survivors Safe Act— HB 417](#)
To keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.
- [C.R.O.W.N Act— HB 178](#)
To ensure protection against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles.



Democrats are committed to creating a state that works for and supports all Ohioans, regardless of race, gender, income, and zip code.

In the District

As the weather warms and organizations dive head first into this year's programs, Rep. Russo met with community activists and regional leaders to support the community structures that are addressing Central Ohio's needs.

- Celebrating the opening of COTA's new McKinley Avenue hub, Rep. Russo welcomed newly appointed CEO, Monica Tellez-Fowler during the agency's momentous 50-year anniversary.
- Touring the Breathing Association's first clinical facility, Rep. Russo examined the diversity of affordable public health programs managed by the clinic and discussed the needs of its growing clientele.
- Rep. Russo met with members of Deaf World Against Violence Everywhere to learn more about the distinct needs of Ohio's deaf community and the impact of legislation on domestic abuse survivors.
- Exploring the urban gardens at Franklinton Farms, Rep. Russo learned more about Columbus' food pathways.
- Speaking at the Central Ohio Society of Marketing Professional Service Panel, Rep. Russo discussed the economic and recreational impact of capital improvements, and the trajectory of Ohio's capital budget.
- Rep. Russo met with the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers to discuss the challenges facing students and what this means for the future of this passion-driven profession.



April News from Rep. Russo

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