Dear Neighbor,

HELPFUL CONTACTS

past few years where we have all struggled to cope with the pandemic, mental health care is more important than ever. House Democrats are focused on enacting legislation that ensures that every Ohioan, no matter their background, is able to access quality mental health care.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. After a tumultuous

Some of our bills focused on mental health include: HB 602—To ensure mental health access for all those

- who voluntarily seek help; HB 363—To provide mental health services in the event of
- a pandemic, natural disaster, or other emergency; HB 41—To create additional safety and security
- measures for mental health professionals; HB 453—To create the "Recovery is Beautiful" license
- plate, to support individuals recovering from mental health or substance abuse issues; HB 591—To designate the last week in February as
- "Eating Disorders Awareness Week." Democrats are working for you, and working for Ohio. During

Seedrick Donson

this Mental Health Awareness Month, be sure to take care of yourself and your loved ones. The Ohio Commission on Minority Health

**Jobs and Family Services:** www.jfs.ohio.gov Veteran Services

888-296-7541 Unemployment 877-644-6562

**Taxation:** 

www.tax.ohio.gov

800-282-1782 Form Requests Tax Assistance 800-282-1780

Aging:

www.aging.ohio.gov Golden Card 866-301-6446

Elder Rights Unit 800-282-1206

**Bureau of Motor Vehicles:** www.bmv.ohio.gov General Information

800-589-TAGS

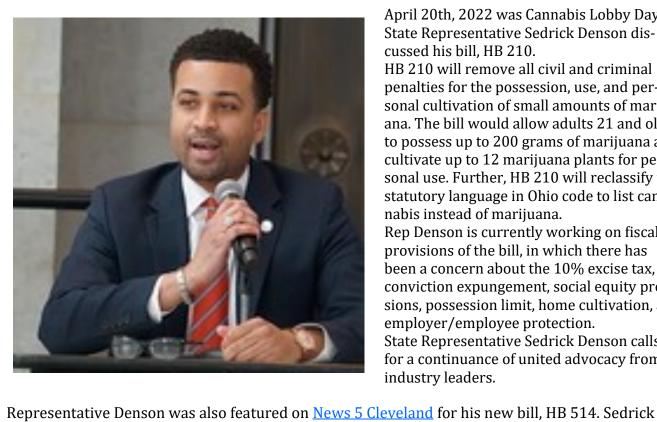
**Public Safety:** 

www.publicsafety.ohio.gov Highway Patrol 877-7-PATROL DŬI Hotline 800-GRAB-DUI

announces the availability of RFP for Minority Health Month 2023. The RFP outlining grant requirements will be available on website www.mih.ohio.gov on June 13th, 2022

Sincerely,





force Act (GROW). The bill would help in four main ways:

HB 210 will remove all civil and criminal penalties for the possession, use, and personal cultivation of small amounts of mariju-

cussed his bill, HB 210.

April 20th, 2022 was Cannabis Lobby Day. State Representative Sedrick Denson dis-

ana. The bill would allow adults 21 and older to possess up to 200 grams of marijuana and cultivate up to 12 marijuana plants for personal use. Further, HB 210 will reclassify the statutory language in Ohio code to list cannabis instead of marijuana. Rep Denson is currently working on fiscal provisions of the bill, in which there has

been a concern about the 10% excise tax, conviction expungement, social equity provisions, possession limit, home cultivation, and employer/employee protection. State Representative Sedrick Denson calls for a continuance of united advocacy from industry leaders. Denson, a Democrat from Cincinnati, have proposed the Graduating and Retaining Ohio's Work-

1. If a student graduating college takes a job in Ohio rather than out-of-state, they will get 100% refundable state income tax payment for up to three years.

- 2. There will now be 100 scholarships of \$25,000 available for out-of-state students enrolling to any of Ohio's four-year programs, if they are in the top 5% of their high school graduating class and pursuing a degree within a STEM field. In addition, the scholarship will be a forgiva-
- ble loan if they remain in Ohio after graduation. 3. Ohio employers will earn a refundable credit of 30% of paid wages for students who did internships, apprenticeships and co-ops. 4. Students who completed their associate degree and want to get a bachelor's can get another
- grant.

## Democrats condemn introduction of 'Don't Say Gay' Democrats condemned the recent introduction of **House Bill** (HB) 616, the Ohio Republican version of Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' law. Under HB 616, schools could not "teach, use, or

grade. Additionally, older students could not be taught "any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity in any manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards." HB 616 is simply the latest draconian censorship bill introduced this General Assembly by House Republicans. Republicans also sponsored HB 327, which would make "failing to fairly present both sides of a political or ideological belief or position" conduct unbecoming of an Ohio educator,

prompting widespread alarm from teachers and concerned

and Local Government committee, and was nearing a

inaccurate and anti-Semitic comments about the

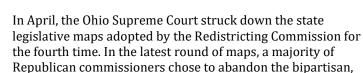
committee vote until the Republican bill sponsor made

parents. HB 327 has received five hearings in the House State

provide any curriculum or instructional materials on sexual orientation or gender identity" in kindergarten through third

While Republicans continue their attacks on LGBTO+ Ohioans, Democrats are calling for action on the Ohio Fairness Act, bipartisan legislation that would protect LGBTQ+ Ohioans from discrimination in employment, housing and accommodations. The Ohio Fairness Act was introduced in March 2021, but has yet to receive a single hearing.

**Redistricting Update** 



last-minute secret gerrymandered plan.

done.

The fight for fair maps is not over.

The Redistricting Commission now must redraw the state legislative maps by May 6. The fight for fair, constitutional maps is not over—for 2022 or the rest of the decade. We have a constitutional obligation to produce fair state legislative maps for this upcoming fall election, and Democrats won't stop fighting until we get this

transparent, independent map-drawing process ordered by the Ohio Supreme Court, instead forcing another vote on a

This May, Democrats are recognizing and celebrating our



## educators in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week and Bus Drivers Appreciation Day. House Democrats thank all our educators and school staff who work hard each and every day to ensure our children and students are receiving the best education and care possible. Democrats know that better lives and brighter futures starts

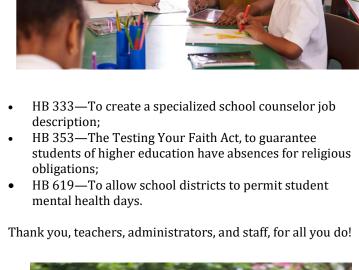
education by passing the Fair School Funding Plan in the 2022-2023 state budget. The Fair School Funding Plan invests in students and ensures that schools get the funds they need to succeed. Democrats also supported bipartisan legislation to reform

the state report card system. The reformed system makes

improvements in accurately and equitably rating our schools,

in the classroom. That's why we support legislation to guarantee every Ohioan, no matter where they live, has a quality education. Democrats delivered a major win for

and will better reflect the hard work of our educators. We have also introduced several other bills to better support our students and educators, including:



**Jewish American Heritage Month** May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a

time to pay tribute to the generations of Jewish Americans who helped form the fabric of American history, culture and society.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, anti

-Semitic incidents in Ohio rose to a 40-year high in 2020, with a 72 percent increase in events from the year before. HB 341 would create the Bureau of Hate Crimes to conduct independent investigations

for hate crimes when sufficient cause exists.



## Asian American Pacific Islander

**Heritage Month** This Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, House Democrats are celebrating the vibrant and diverse traditions

and contributions of Asian Americans and

Pacific Islanders.

As hate crimes against Asian Americans are on the rise, we also reaffirm our commitment to stopping Asian hate and ensuring all Ohioans can live with safety and security in their communities.

Affairs Commission and the Office of Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs to address the injustices of the past and understand the unique difficulties in addressing the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander population in Ohio.

Democrats have introduced legislation to create the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander



