



From the Office of Representative Casey Weinstein (D-Hudson)

Working For You: the Ohio State Operating Budget

Dear Neighbor,

The 2024-2025 Operating Budget will be the primary focus of the House for the rest of this month, where it is expected to pass the House before going to the Ohio Senate. Much like with the Transportation Budget, House Democrats look forward to creating a bipartisan budget that will put people over politics. We will not support extremist ideas that seek to divide and distract us from the issues that matter. Our priorities for the budget include investments in families, children, workers and communities. My colleagues and I are working to ensure our public schools are fully and fairly funded, that Ohioans have access to affordable housing, and that we invest in maternal and infant care. These priorities will

help drive Ohio forward, making us more competitive and guarantee Ohio is the best place to work, live, and raise a family.

Here are some of the budget amendments I am supporting:

- Funding for the Ohio Holocaust & Genocide Education Committee
Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio Equity Outreach Program
Renewing Ohio's "Fair School Funding" Plan
Expanding and Supporting Ohio United Way's 211 Services
Medicaid reimbursement increases for behavioral health and developmental disabilities service providers



Commendations, Congratulations, and Condolences from Rep. Weinstein

Congratulations to the 2023 Ohio High School Basketball State Champions Archbishop Hoban High School (DI) and Akron Buchtel High School (DII)!

I am so excited to be representing parts of the city of Akron in my new district, and it's always a pleasure seeing students and athletes from our community thriving on the biggest stages. I look forward to welcoming both teams to the Statehouse in May.

Congratulations to Hudson High School Gymnastics Coach Megan Mertz, who was named the 2023 OHSAA Gymnastics Coach of the Year!

The last month has been packed with meetings and events. It was a pleasure to discuss the work happening at the Akron Food Pantry and meet with University of Akron President Miller. Thank you also to everyone to attended our first town hall of the year! This first Community Conversation was held in Hudson, and I look forward to bringing the event to Cuyahoga Falls and then Stow later this year.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if my office can answer any questions or discuss concerns.

Sincerely,

Casey Weinstein



Spotlight: HJR 1

All Ohioans deserve to have the freedom to be who we are, the dignity of representation, and the opportunity to thrive. These are the things that bind us together in our communities, and HJR 1 jeopardizes all of that.

A group of politicians wants to rewrite the rules to get their way. House Joint Resolution 1 would require all future proposed amendments to the Ohio Constitution to be passed by a 60% vote instead of a 50% simple majority, which has been the precedent in our state for over 100 years. This resolution would also restrict citizens' access to the ballot initiative—a tool that Ohioans have used for generations to push forward issues that matter the most to them, keeping power in the hands of the people, and not in an all-encompassing government body.

HJR1 would end majority rule in Ohio, take away our right to decide what happens in our own communities, and take away Ohioans' voices. The bill is a thinly veiled attempt by certain members of the House to prevent the cementing of reproductive freedom for women in our state through the ballot initiative process. This government has trusted Ohioans for 110 years to empower themselves with these processes. We should continue to trust them—something I believe they have earned.

I plan to oppose this piece of harmful legislation, and I encourage you to follow its progress through the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee this week.

Graphic with text: Say NO to HJR 1. We have a responsibility to respect the will of the people. Restricting ballot initiatives takes away our right to decide what matters most. HJR 1 is UNDEMOCRATIC, UNFAIR, and UNPOPULAR. We can stop this. To oppose HJR 1 reach out to the Chairman! Rep39@ohiohouse.gov/ (614) 466-8051. What YOU can do! Ohio House Democrats

Reach Out to Rep. Weinstein

Here are some ways our office can help:

- Disputes with government agencies
Ohio House commendations, condolences, and congratulatory letters
Propose bill ideas and law changes
Connect you or your business to state programs or services

Contact Methods:

- Email Us: Rep34@OhioHouse.gov
Call Us: (614) 466-1177
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Legislative Update

HB 152: Madeline's Law / Madeline's Law is named for Northeast Ohio native, Madeline, whose parents approached me in my first term and explained their struggles affording hearing aids for their young daughter. Madeline's law would require insurance companies cover the cost of childhood hearing aids for children under the age of 22. This is the third time introducing this bill, and I am hopeful that we have the bipartisan support necessary to get this done for Ohio families.

Establish a Bureau of Hate Crimes / This week, my Democratic colleague, Representative Anita Somani, and I will reintroduce by bill to create a Bureau of Hate Crimes within the Office of the Attorney General. In 2020, the nation saw a 12-year-high in the number of hate crimes, and a designated division will show our most vulnerable constituents that hate has no place in Ohio.

