



A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. WILLIS E BLACKSHEAR JR.**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 38

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 @Willisb\_jr

 @Willis E Blackshear Jr.



**From the desk of Rep. Blackshear**

Dear Neighbor,

Summer is almost over, but we are not slowing down in the legislature. We have a number of important bills and legislative priorities that we will be focusing on in the coming months. I wanted to highlight some of the many bills that I have introduced or supported so far in this General Assembly with a 1 pager attached to this newsletter that highlights some of the bills my colleagues and I have been working on so far.

I believe that wherever you come from and whatever your background, everyone should have the opportunity to raise happy, healthy families. That’s why I want to share how my work on a comprehensive People First agenda will improve our quality of life in the Buckeye State. Putting People First means 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.

Lastly, the Paul Laurence Dunbar License Plate is almost available! Since being signed into law the last step to make it available is to collect signatures for the license plate. If you are interested in signing the petition or if you would like more information please contact our office at 614-466-1607.

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

Sincerely,  
Willis E Blackshear Jr.



Since sports gambling became legal in Ohio beginning in January of this year we have seen a major uptick in gambling overall. I wanted to highlight the Ohio Casino Control Commission as they have a number of resources to help people that struggle with a gambling addiction including their “Time Out” program in which individuals can voluntarily ban themselves from gambling. This can be great resource if you or someone you know struggles with gambling addiction. For more info visit [timeoutohio.gov](http://timeoutohio.gov) or [casinocontrol.ohio.gov](http://casinocontrol.ohio.gov)





## House Democrats Celebrate Working Parents Day

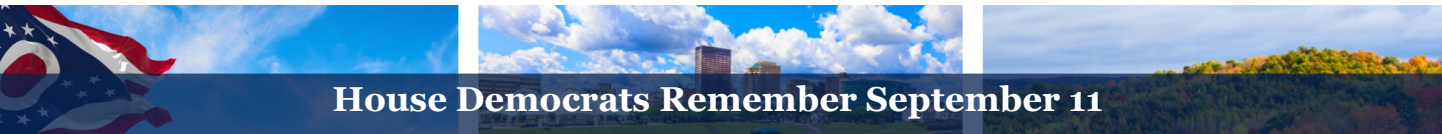
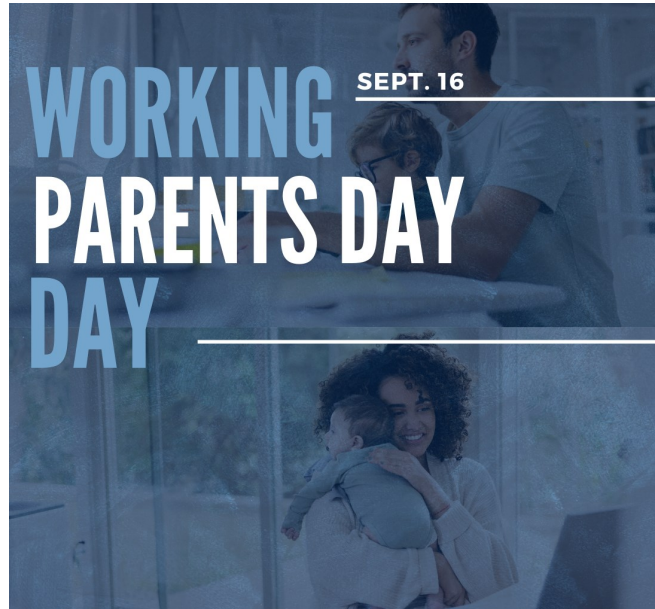
On September 16th, we celebrate working parents and acknowledge the hard work and sacrifices working parents make every day to support their family. Working parents are feeling the squeeze of high costs for everyday expenses including healthcare, groceries, and rent.

House Democrats have successfully passed several provisions in the budget to secure strong working families:

- Expanded publicly funded child care initial eligibility
- Established infant capacity building and early childhood learning
- Expanded the existing “sales tax holiday” for Ohio families
- Increased “homestead exemption” property tax break for senior citizens and disabled veterans

I know that family always comes first, and Ohioans should have the opportunity to raise happy, healthy families. Democrats are working

to ensure families have the resources they need to raise safe, healthy children without breaking the bank.



## House Democrats Remember September 11

September 11, 2001 is a day that we will never forget. The horrifying attacks on our country killed 2,977 people from 93 nations, including 441 brave emergency responders.

These attacks have had a lasting impact on America and the world. I continue to extend my sincere gratitude to the brave men and women who have since served overseas to protect our country. I will always prioritize bills that help support first responders, active military members, veterans, and their families to honor those who serve our nation.





## A Legislative Update from State Rep. Willis E. Blackshear Jr.

Hello Neighbor,

I wanted to reach out to you and provide a legislative update about some of the excellent legislation that my colleagues and I have been working on over the last couple months. I have introduced the Student Mental Health Act (HB 38), A bill to designate April as Counseling Awareness Month (HB 198), and have a number of other bills in the pipeline which I plan on introducing in the coming months. In addition to the legislation I've been working on, I wanted to share some of the outstanding bills my colleagues have introduced **which I have listed below**. These are bills that I have cosponsored and expressed my support for as we move forward with our legislative work. As always feel free to reach out to my office if you have any questions or concerns at 614-466-1607 or rep38@ohiohouse.gov.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willis E. Blackshear Jr." in a cursive style.

### Representative Blackshear Cosponsored Bills

<b>H. B. No. 23</b>	<a href="#">Enact FY 2024-2025 transportation budget</a>	Status: As Enrolled
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appropriates \$13.5 billion towards transportation projects and expenses, includes needed rail safety regulations in response to the East Palestine disaster</li></ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 28</b>	<a href="#">Designate Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month</a>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would designate March as Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month</li></ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 30</b>	<a href="#">Require correctional facilities supply feminine hygiene products</a>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows inmates to have access to needed hygiene projects</li></ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 39</b>	<a href="#">Make the earned income tax credit partially refundable</a>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would help low to moderate-income individuals not pay additional taxes by making this credit refundable</li></ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 50</b>	<a href="#">Create mechanism to allow relief-collateral sanction for housing</a>	Status: As Reported by the House
	Criminal Justice Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would help individuals reentering acquire stable housing through a Certificate of Qualification of Housing</li></ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 52</b>	<a href="#">Reverse H.B. 509/134th GA changes to EMS training, continuing ed</a>	Status: As Enrolled
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helps to ensure the continuance of trainings and services provided by EMTs and reverses unfavorable changes made previously</li></ul>	

<b>H. B. No. 53</b>	<i>Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would allow employers to receive a tax credit for hiring certain veterans and their family members</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 96</b>	<i>Increase the state minimum wage</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would gradually increase the state minimum wage to \$15/hr over the next 5 years</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 106</b>	<i>Enact the Pay Stub Protection Act</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would require employers to provide earnings and deductions statements to employees to provide transparency</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 112</b>	<i>Enact the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifies campaign finance laws to increase transparency regarding political action committees and campaign contributions</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 114</b>	<i>Allow candidate pay certain child care costs with campaign funds</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would allow candidates to cover the cost of childcare during campaigning with campaign funds</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 115</b>	<i>Enact Ohio Equal Pay Act</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would create standards for public employers to ensure equal pay between male and female employees</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 117</b>	<i>Eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps to expand reading intervention and the inclusion of phonics for students</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 120</b>	<i>Repeal H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would refund utility customers for the rate increases caused by HB 6 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 122</b>	<i>Expand intimidation offenses to include guardians ad litem</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes protections for court attorneys and advocates from harassment and abuse</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 123</b>	<i>Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a specific flag for members of the U.S. armed forces who died for their service</li> </ul>	
<b>H. B. No. 152</b>	<i>Enact Madeline's Law regarding hearing aid coverage</i>	Status: As Introduced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires health plan insurers to cover hearing aids and related expenses for persons under 21</li> </ul>	

To view bill text, status updates, and more detailed descriptions from any of the above bills please visit: <https://www.ohiohouse.gov/legislation/search>