

District 3

NEWSLETTER

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A LETTER FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ISMAIL MOHAMED



Dear Neighbor,

Happy February! I wanted to provide some key legislative updates as we come to the halfway mark of this General Assembly. Here at the statehouse, we have started work on the Capitol Budget, which traditionally funds state and local community infrastructure projects. With this year's special one-time fund, the House was able to preliminarily allocate \$42 million for qualifying local improvements and renovations in Central Ohio. Throughout the past year, I have also sponsored several bills that address increasing minimum wage, driving record transparency, International driver's rights in Ohio, and school lunch shaming. Read on for a full legislative review!

February is Black History Month! Let's take this time to honor the legacy of trailblazers, icons, and the silent voices of the Black community who have pioneered and uplifted the contributions of Black Americans to benefit our shared American community. This is also a time to make a conscious effort to empower young Black voices and experiences as we build an Ohio where everyone thrives.

On the 15th of February, the House Minority Caucus hosted the Gun Violence Prevention Summit. This pioneering event gathered 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.

As a reminder, we have a primary election in March and there have been changes to Ohio's voting laws -- implementing stricter requirements, shortening timeframes, and deadlines to cast ballots. Please visit voteohio.gov for more information or contact the Franklin County Board of Elections with any questions.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any concerns, questions, or information.

Sincerely,

Ismail Mohamed

State Representative, District 3

I am proud to have taken the first half of the 135th General Assembly to address issues that impact us on an every day basis. The legislation listed below is a small sample of the bills that I have supported that protect our freedoms and dignity, and move us closer to embracing the opportunity of an Ohio for us all.

Protecting Justice

- **HB 124 and HB 35:** Eliminate period of limitation – rape prosecution or civil action and for certain sexual abuse claims.
- **HB 161:** Eliminate spousal exemptions for certain sex offenders.
- **HB 191:** Revise the law regarding bail. Requires a court to release a defendant on the least restrictive conditions that will assure: the defendant's appearance in court, the protection or safety of any person or the community, and that the defendant will not obstruct the criminal justice process.
- **HB 29:** Regards driver's license suspensions-failure to pay child support-passed by house.
- **HB 374:** Regards nonresident drivers with international drivers licenses.

Gun Safety

- **HB 143:** Ohio safe homes act- Allows tenant who is a victim of certain violent crimes to change locks or terminate a rental agreement without being held liable for early termination.
 - **HB 170:** Extreme risk protection order act.
 - **HB 217:** require trigger locks to be attached + provided with firearm sales.
 - **HB 309:** Establish firearm transfer waiting periods and criminal background checks.
- Other Bills Introduced (not yet numbered):**
- **HB--:** Prohibit Mass Casualty Weapons.
 - **HB--:** Universal Background Checks – Closing the Background Check Loophole.
 - **HB--:** Require a basic competency license to carry a concealed handgun.

Public Education

- **HB 38:** Allow school districts to permit students 3 mental health days.
- **HB 47:** Require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in schools.
- **SB 49:** Requires each public school to adopt a policy that accommodates the sincere religious beliefs and practices of students, which includes three excused absences for religious expression days.
- **HB 171:** Requires the state board of education to begin updating curriculum for social studies to include migration journeys, experiences, and societal contributions of communities in Ohio.
- **HB 408:** Requires public schools to provide meals and related services to students, addressing school lunch shaming.

Housing

- **HB 60:** Increases the homestead exemption for elderly or disabled homeowners and certain of their surviving spouses from \$25,000 to \$40,000 of the home's appraised value or cost.
- **SB 43:** Modify homestead exemption for surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.
- **HB 59:** Provide counsel for destitute defendants facing eviction.
- **HB 150:** Prohibit rental discrimination-based on lawful source of income, including housing assistance and public benefits.
- **HB 263:** Authorize property tax freeze for certain owner occupied homes.
- **HB 290:** Authorize the refundable thriving families tax credit.