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Lauren
WORKING
FOR YOU

Dear Neighbor,

Thanks for subscribing to our newsletter. I promise to keep the content informative and focused on the things happening at the Statehouse and in our District that affect you.

Our first month for the 135th General Assembly is underway. My office has been working on resolving issues for residents in the 59th District. I'm meeting with various local and state level stakeholders about needs and priorities.



Grants and Programs Alert

Safety Innovation Grants for Schools

<https://grants.ohio.gov/fundingopportunities.aspx>. Applications are due by Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

Early Childhood Safety Initiative

<https://grantsportal.ohio.gov/Public/FundingOpportunityDetails?detailid=174>. Applications are due by Feb. 10, 2023.

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

<https://agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office/Beginning-Farmer-Tax-Credit-Program/Beginning-Farmer-Tax-Credit>

Please follow my social media pages for weekly updates, including announcements about monthly in-person office hours taking place throughout the 59th district.

It's an honor to serve you and your family in the Statehouse.

Sincerely,

Lauren

meetings 34

house caucus meetings/training 5

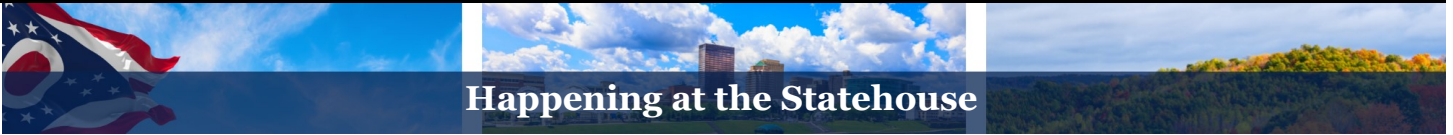
media engagements 5

events 6

house floor sessions 3

ribbon cuttings 3

speaking engagement 1



Happening at the Statehouse

Meet Our Office



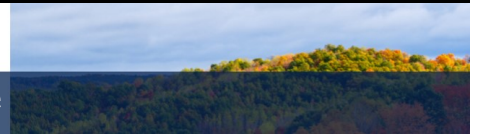
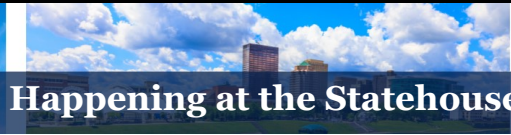
Michaela Burriss is the Ohio House of Representatives' Legislative Aide for our 59th district. Having previously served in this role for Representative Lepore-Hagan for several years, Michaela brings a breadth of knowledge and experience about the Mahoning Valley to our work at the Statehouse. An attorney, and graduate of Ohio University and Capital University Law School, she's spent the past decade working in government, politics, and nonprofit advocacy. She will lead our office in constituent services, legislation research and communications.



Kristen Asiedu is currently a student at Ohio State University studying Political Science and City and Regional Planning. In addition to serving our district, Kristen is a Social Change Ambassador through the University, where she inspires young women within Columbus city schools with curriculum surrounding their interests and growth. She oversees social projects throughout the city to inspire change through mentorship and community leadership. She also served as the Community Action Chair for the Black Student Association where she hosted community action focused events.



Olivia Beckett is currently a student at Ohio State University studying Public Management, Leadership and Policy. She has served on the Undergraduate Student Government Council as a Health and Safety Committee member as well as on Student Council in the secretarial seat. Olivia has also served as President of the Spanish Honors Society. She enjoys being involved and serving her community, including teaching kids to swim.



Happening at the Statehouse

Featured Programs

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Sign up for the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) program and get money for a variety of educational opportunities such as:

- Day camps, including camps for academics, music and arts
- Tuition for learning extension centers
- Educational, learning or study skills services
- Field trips to historical landmarks, museums, science centers and theaters, including admission, exhibit and program fees
- Language classes
- Musical instrument lessons

Visit <https://education.ohio.gov/OhioACE> for more information.

In the News

Rep. McNally announces \$178,800 to support Youngstown State University

bit.ly/3HLtAWe

Rep. McNally announces 135th GA Committee Assignments

bit.ly/3l1CXIn

ATTENTION HUNTERS!

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife a \$25,000 grant for Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) to support local food banks with donated venison.

The organization will use the funding to pay for white-tailed deer harvested by hunters to be processed and distributed to charitable organizations in Ohio.

Visit <https://feedingthehungry.org/> for more information.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!

In an effort to keep Ohioans safe during natural disasters, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency provides a rebate for the purchase and installation of safe rooms for Ohio homeowners.

Visit <http://bit.ly/3wSDbUY> for more information.



Hosting the Western Reserve Building Trades at State of the State



Happening at the Statehouse

Legislative Priorities for 135th GA

During our Democratic Caucus Retreat, we outlined our priorities and values for the upcoming General Assembly. They are:

- *Safety, Security and Justice*
- *Healthcare Freedom*
- *Fairness and Equality*
- *Dignity and Respect*
- *Jobs and Opportunity*

I am cosponsoring several bills and will keep you updated once they're introduced.



Ribbon Cutting for Dress to Succeed

STATE of the STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Families and Education

- Expanding program for home visits. Support for pregnancy and new moms.
- Repeal State Tax on critical supplies for babies such as diapers, formula and wipes.
- Increasing the child tax deduction to \$2500 per child.
- Expanding money for childcare facilities and local child services agencies.
- Creating a state Dept. of Children and Youth.
- Increase Charter School funding and Choice Schooling funding.
- \$300 million for capital improvements for career tech facilities.
- Financial aid expansion to include community colleges and regional campuses.
- Expanded eligibility for scholarships for college-bound kids choosing Ohio universities.

Economic Development

- Expanding on Innovation Hubs to put them in more cities around Ohio

Health and Human Services

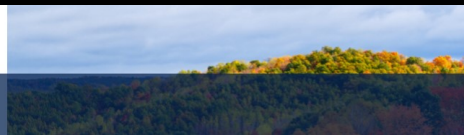
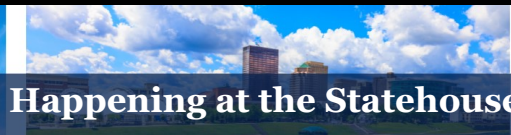
- Developing a Community System of Care to grow behavioral health services, increasing research and focusing on prevention efforts in the health space.
- Use one –time funding to bolster a pediatric healthcare system for mental health.
- Creation of a Quality of Life and Care Taskforce to help nursing homes and home healthcare.

Housing

- Creation of a homeownership savings account for homeowners to save for down payments and improvements.
- Creation of a single family housing tax credit.

Local Government

- State-paid monthly fees for MARKS radio system used by local safety service agencies.
- Next-Gen 911.
- H2Ohio program expansion to continue with lead pipe replacement and river cleanups among other things.



Happening at the Statehouse

I'm excited to share my 135th General Assembly standing committee assignments:

- **Agriculture**
- **Commerce & Labor (Ranking Member)**
- **Economic & Workforce Development**
- **Families & Aging**
- **Finance (Ex Officio)**
- **Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services (Ex Officio)**

Committee assignments were made based on professional background, subject matter interest, member preference and caucus need.

Voting Recap

Majority and Minority Leadership Teams

- Jason Stephens—Speaker of House
- Allison Russo—Minority Leader

Rules Governing 135th GA

- Increased Transparency for the Public
- Restoring Order to Committees

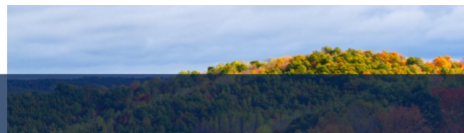
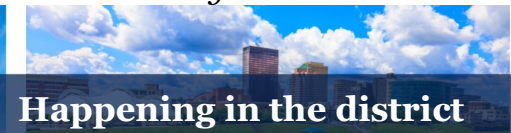
Main takeaways include amendments to bills or substitution bills have to be submitted and published online by midnight the day before a committee hearing. This will increase transparency for the public and settle the chaos that happens at committee.

Rejected Amendments to Rules

- Requiring opening prayer to only be Christian prayers
- Allowing firearms on the House floor

The Democrats have members of other faith that this rule would exclude, not to mention the many other Ohioans across the state from other faiths who often attend session.

The Ohio Highway Patrol is our 24/7 security, including on the House floor. Guns on the floor for member safety is not necessary.



Happening in the district



Congratulations to these new businesses!

Top Left: CSA Tax Consultants (Youngstown)
Bottom Right: QuikMed Urgent Care (Youngstown)

Roundtable on Home Healthcare Workforce Shortage

- In the next 10 yrs, we will need 230k additional workers in this space across the state
- In Mahoning County last year, on average, 215 people a month were not receiving vital care because of the shortage.
- Columbiana is was 100

This prevents people from aging with dignity, staying in their own homes, puts burdens on their families and much more.

