



Dear Neighbor,

Happy April! This month, we turn our attention to the 2024 State of the State address. I will be hard at work to guarantee that Ohioans are supported and have the ability to thrive here in Ohio. I am committed to working to ensure all Ohioans—no matter your race, gender or economic status—have the freedom to be who you are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive.

April is National Minority Health Month, a time to focus on the health disparities in minority communities across the state and country. Latina and Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage than white women. In addition, infant mortality rates among Black Americans and Native groups are higher than other racial or ethnic groups in the United States. Improving healthcare in minority communities is one of the most important issues facing our state. I will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone, no matter their zip code, can thrive here in Ohio.

Also in April, taxes are due by April 15th! Make sure you file your taxes and take advantage of any returns you may be offered. If you cannot file your taxes by April 15th, make sure to request an extension which will give you until October 15th to file your tax return.

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

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
State Representative
Ohio House District 4

To unsubscribe please email rep04@ohiohouse.gov to be removed from the mailing list.

Office Hours

You are invited to attend my monthly Open Office Hours

April Office Hours

Sunday, April 14

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Jefferson Township Community Room

6767 Havens Corners Road, Blacklick, OH 43004

May Office Hours

Thursday, May 23

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Westerville Public Library, Purple Room

126 S State St, Westerville, OH 43081

Please contact my office if you would prefer to schedule a private meeting.

Women's History Month

Last month, I joined fellow Democratic women legislators for a Women's History Month News Conference. We highlighted legislative priorities we are fighting for that empower and support women across Ohio.

I spoke about the fight for equal pay for women and advocated for the passage of the [Ohio Equal Pay Act](#) (sponsored by Rep. Miranda and Rep. Brent). March 12, 2024, was national Equal Pay Day which is a date that was chosen to represent how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. All Ohioans should receive equal pay for equal work which is why I'm proud to serve with colleagues who put People First and have introduced legislation to address the issue.

Other legislation that was highlighted includes:

- [Reproductive Care Act](#) (Rep. Somani and Rep. Liston)
- [Ohio Safe Homes Act](#) (Rep. Grim)
- [Keeping Our Survivors Act](#) (Rep. Grim, Rep. Munira)
- [C.R.O.W.N Act](#) (Rep. Brent)

Additionally, Women's History Month is not officially recognized in the Ohio Revised Code. Rep. Grim and I have introduced [House Bill 454](#), to formally designate March as Women's History Month in Ohio.

My colleagues and I will continue to push for these important pieces of legislation to move forward because we are committed to creating a state that works for and supports all Ohioans, regardless of race, gender, income, and zip code.

Legislative Update

In addition to HB 454 (see above), Rep. Grim and I also introduced [House Bill 467](#). This bill proposes a modest change to the requirement that candidates for public office must disclose all names used in the past five years on their Declaration of Candidacy portion of their nominating petition. HB 467 would add an exemption to disclosure if that change of name was granted by any court in the state of Ohio.

This issue was recently brought to light when several candidates for the Ohio legislature were questioned about whether they had disclosed prior names on their nominating petition. The news coverage made clear that this requirement is not well known or enforced. In fact, there is no mention of this requirement in the Ohio Candidate Requirement Guide published by the Ohio Secretary of State and there is no place on the form to list any prior name(s). The Boards of Election handling the challenges brought in 2024 handled the challenges in

different ways resulting in some candidates being permitted to stay on the ballot and some candidates losing certification for the ballot.

This bill would also add space to the Declaration of Candidacy form so that candidates who are required to provide previous names used in the last five years for any reason will have space to do so. Finally, it will require the office of the Secretary of State to include this requirement in the Ohio Requirement Candidate Guide.

April is Minority Health Month

National Minority Health Month is observed in April and focuses on the health disparities minority communities experience in the United States. Black men are more likely to die from cancer than Caucasian men and Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. We must provide more linguistically and culturally appropriate health education as well as remove barriers to receiving healthcare. House Democrats will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone, no matter their zip code, can thrive.

Recent Events



Plain Township Fire Station Tour



Ribbon Cutting for Wendy's in New Albany



Delivering Remarks at Grow with Google in New Albany



Tour of the Columbus College of Art and Design



Panel for Women's History Month



Reception for Ohio Fire Chiefs



MORPC State of the Region



Meeting with Miami University Students



Tour of Childhood League Center

April 2024 Dates of Note

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Did you know that in 2021, distracted driving killed 3,522 people? National Distracted Driving Awareness Month is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road. Cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — has become the most common distraction. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. April is designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is meant to raise awareness regarding the prevalence of sexual assault, educating people on how to minimize the risk of sexual assault as well as how to help survivors. If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, you can call 800-656-4673 to be connected to a local sexual assault service provider. More information here: <https://www.rainn.org/get-help>

National Arab American Heritage Month

April is National Arab American Heritage Month! This month celebrates Arab American culture and achievements which have made Ohio, and America, a better place for all. Ohio is proud to have the country's [ninth](#)-largest Arab American population. House Democrats are dedicated to ensuring Arab Americans in Ohio are welcomed and supported, so we can all thrive.

National Public Health Week - April 1 to 7

During the first full week of April each year, National Public Health Week is a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation. All Ohioans deserve access to an environment free from pollution, safe drinking water and food, and fostering relationships in our communities-no matter who you are.

National Library Week - April 7 to 13

Knowledge is power! National Library Week is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. No matter who you are or where you come from—the library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs.

Black Maternal Health Week - April 11 to 17

The week of April 11-17 is Black Maternal Health Week. Black mothers are 3x more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications compared to white women. We must address this injustice by removing barriers many Black mothers face to receiving quality healthcare.

Ohio Child Care Worker Appreciation Week - April 15-19

Childcare workers are some of our most essential workers, caring and nurturing our children through compassion, patience, and kindness. This year's Child Care Worker Appreciation Week honors and remembers the childcare workers who were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

World Health Day - April 7

At least 4.5M people were not fully covered by essential health services in 2021. World Health Day aims to call for the rights of everyone—no matter who you are—to have access to quality health services, education, and information. Everyone deserves the right to safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working conditions, and freedom from discrimination.

Solar Eclipse - April 8

Today's the day! A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, blocking all or part of the sun's light. Step outside and witness this once in a lifetime phenomenon!

Eid al-Fitr - Evening of April 9

Eid Mubarak from the Ohio House Democrats!

Tax Day - April 15

Taxes are due by April 15th this year! Make sure you file your taxes and take advantage of any returns you may be offered. If you cannot file your taxes by April 15th, make sure to request an extension which will give you until October 15th to file your tax return.

Earth Day - April 22

April 22nd is Earth Day, a celebration of all the Earth offers us and a time to reflect on how we can protect our planet. We only have one Earth, and we must do all we can to protect and care for it. Climate change is one of the biggest issues we face as a planet. Democrats will always stand up for sustainable and environmentally friendly policies that create clean, renewable, and affordable energy that can power our cities and heat our homes. To find Earth Day events happening in Columbus, click here: <https://www.earthdaycolumbus.org/>.

Passover - April 22

I wish a happy Passover to all in House District 4 and Ohio who celebrate!

Workers Memorial Day - April 28

April 28 commemorates the day when the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act was enacted. This landmark legislation greatly improved Ohioans' safety in the workplace. Workers Memorial Day remembers workers who have been killed, injured, or made sick on the job. Ohio's workers keep our state competitive and are the reason Ohio is an economic leader in America. House Democrats are committed to fighting for workers' rights to ensure we all have safe workplaces, proper training and fair pay.