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SENATOR STEPHANIE KUNZE

OHIO SENATE, 16TH DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER ISSUE: MAY 2020

Dear Neighbor,

Although cities and towns across Ohio may not have been able to host their traditional Memorial Day commemorations, that does not diminish the intent of this hallowed day, to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend and serve our country. I encourage you to take a moment everyday to remember the fallen heroes and thank the veterans and active duty military members for their courage and strength.

President Harry S. Truman once said, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

The Ohio Senate has stayed diligent in our support of Ohioans through legislation and relief efforts. Our work is far from over, and as we all continue to face new challenges every day, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you have ideas or need help accessing state resources. I'm available at Kunze@OhioSenate.gov or by phone at (614) 466-5981.

Be Well and God Bless.

COVID-19 Responsible Protocols FOR GETTING OHIO BACK TO WORK

Ohio is reopening, and by the end of this month, more than 90% of Ohio's economy should be open. By responsibly restarting many industries that were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are getting Ohioans back to work safely. It is crucial while reopening that we do so in a manner that protects the health of employees, patrons and their families. Although many of our favorite

restaurants, retail shops and local spots may look different, we can all enjoy and support these establishments as a responsible patron. Maintain social distancing and respect employees who are getting back to work, remembering that we don't know everyone's story. We can be kind by protecting each other so we can responsibly restart Ohio.

If you have questions regarding sector specific standards and requirements, please click the link below:

[Learn More](#)



The federally passed CARES Act created the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program to provide additional assistance to those unemployed due to COVID-19 that would otherwise not be eligible. By expanding the population of individuals eligible for benefits, Ohio's Department of Jobs and Family Services is working to distribute benefits to get assistance to those in need. The expanded population includes self-employed workers, 1099 tax filers and part-time workers. As a reminder: payments are backdated to the date individuals first became unemployed.

For additional information, visit the Unemployment Office's Coronavirus and Unemployment Insurance Benefits Resource Hub here:

[Learn More](#)



Maintaining contact with loved ones can be challenging during these times. Feeling stress is very normal in times of crisis, and the Ohio Department of Aging has started the Staying Connected Check-in Service to aid those in need. By staying connected, we can help one another alleviate distresses.

Staying Connected is a FREE, daily check-in by phone for Ohioans age 60 or older. Registration is simple and you can choose the time of day that suits you best. This is also a great opportunity to connect to aging services in Central Ohio.

[Learn More](#)



The Ohio Senate continued its efforts to support Ohioans by passing legislation that brings financial relief to our communities. I am proud to co-sponsor [Senate](#)

[Bill 310](#), a bill that authorizes \$350 million in COVID-19 relief funding for Ohio's communities.

These funds will aid counties and local governments for the reimbursements and expenditures of significant medical, public health and safety operations as they battle this pandemic on the front lines. This unanimous, bipartisan emergency response measure will provide much needed assistance to local governments as they continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and provide necessary services to their residents.

I pledge to remain diligent in listening to feedback from our communities in order to adapt relief efforts to those in need. Please [contact me](#) if you have advice or are seeking assistance.



I had the pleasure of providing sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 285 to the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee. Alongside my Democratic colleague Senator Sean O'Brien, I shared the merits of S.B. 285 as a bill that will bring safety and assurance to Ohio's drivers.

This bill is a commonsense change to Ohio's revised code aimed at discouraging distracted driving. S.B. 285 makes drivers put down their phones so that people stop getting hurt. We have seen data showing other states that have enacted similar legislation have shown improvements in reducing the number of auto crashes and deaths. Too many Ohio families have lost loved ones due to distracted driving and it is time to make the necessary changes to protect everyone on the road.

I look forward to continue working across the aisle with my colleague Senator O'Brien to get this bill passed and signed into law.

Learn More



Although summer plans have been affected, I encourage you to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. On May 26th, recreation leagues for "limited-contact" sports such as baseball, softball, golf, bowling and tennis were allowed to resume play. Public pools and aquatic centers were also permitted to open. To learn more, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

In addition, Central Ohio is home to hundreds of miles of trails and thousands of acres of outdoor space that you and your family can enjoy. All Columbus and Franklin County Metroparks are now open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., please visit www.metroparks.net to learn more.

In the News

USA Today: [This girl challenged her mail carrier to tic-tac-toe. Now it's a source of joy during coronavirus.](#)

ThisWeek (Upper Arlington News): [Pandemic mask project in Upper Arlington gives thanks to essential workers](#)

ThisWeek (Grove City Record): [Grove City businesses tap resources to back Project Altogether](#)

10TV (WBNS): [Dublin teen creates chalk art to make others smile, raise money for Ronald McDonald House](#)

ThisWeek (Upper Arlington News): [Caravans carry joy into Upper Arlington neighborhoods](#)

Please feel free to contact me. My office can help:

- ★ Assist in dealing with state agencies.
- ★ Research information on bills and committees.
- ★ Share your opinions on pending legislation or your ideas for new legislation.
- ★ Honor outstanding accomplishments and milestones.
- ★ Request a meeting at the Statehouse or in the district.
- ★ Schedule a tour of the Ohio Statehouse.



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Senator Stephanie Kunze represents the 16th Ohio Senate District, which encompasses a portion of Franklin county. Learn more at www.OhioSenate.gov/Kunze.