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Dear Neighbor,

The Ohio Senate continues to work through the summer months to fulfill important goals before the end of the 133rd General Assembly. One of these goals is to make vital investments into Ohio's schools and communities. One bill that I sponsored, Senate Bill 4, was recently passed by the Senate and signed into law. This legislation will allocate millions of dollars towards school facilities and infrastructure projects and grant more flexibility for communities to invest in personal protection equipment and health initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission completed important steps toward constructing a monument to honor the suffragettes who fought for the ratification of the 19th Amendment. As chair of this commission, I'm proud of the efforts of our members to honor the legacy of these brave women and this important step towards an equitable society. You can read more about Senate Bill 4, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, and more legislative updates in this newsletter.

As we look forward to the months ahead, there is plenty of work to be done. I'm working with my colleagues in the Ohio Senate to repeal House Bill 6 and address Ohio's energy needs in a manner that will protect ratepayers. We also continue to monitor the latest COVID-19 data and find solutions that will help Ohioans stay safe and recover from these difficult times.

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.

Stephanie Kunze



SAFEGUARDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Earlier this week, I joined my colleague Senator Sean O'Brien to announce a bipartisan plan to repeal House Bill 6. The people of Ohio have learned over the last week about the corruption behind the House of Representatives introduction and passage of HB 6 last summer. We know now that the legislation was tainted with corruption from its inception, and that is why I am sponsoring legislation to repeal it. We must restore Ohioans' confidence in the legislative process and do so without the shadow of dark money that was used to introduce this bill in the House.

Click below to watch my recent comments on this situation:

[Learn More](#)



FUNDING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION & PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

It is more important now than ever to continue Ohio's investments in our

community. Senate Bill 4 puts this idea in action by providing funding and flexibility for Ohio's schools, infrastructure and localities who are combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

I sponsored Senate Bill 4 with the initiative to partner with local leaders to ensure that schools have access to funding readily available. Investing in our children's future and education is the best insurance policy for our community, and that is why I fought for an additional \$300 million in capital appropriations to school facilities across Ohio. This will give local school districts access to additional funds for construction of K-12 school facilities, putting our children in schools ready to succeed.

In addition, SB 4 allocates \$225 million for the Public Works Commission (PWC.) Ohio's PWC funds projects around Ohio in an effort to continuously improve our neighborhoods. This funding will go towards a variety of projects aimed at improvements:

- Local Transportation Improvements: Funds to support local infrastructure projects improving Ohio's roads and bridges.
- Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program: Dedicated to environmental conservation including acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors.
- Local Government Emergency Program: Projects that address immediate health and safety threats.
- Ohio Capital Improvements: General funds allocated to community improvements.

Finally, it is crucial that the Legislature continues to address the needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 4 provides greater flexibility in the purchasing of personal protection equipment so counties, townships and hospitals have easier access to these supplies during the pandemic.

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The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission has been hard at work as we passed the mid-way point of 2020. I'm proud to announce that we've made a significant step forward towards one of our main initiatives to honor 100 years of women's right to vote. The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board voted in favor to preliminary approve the construction of a Statehouse grounds monument honoring this feat.

The brave women who paved the path we walk today by fighting for the ratification of the 19th amendment will always be remembered. More than 68 million women vote in elections today because of their tireless efforts. It is only fitting that we honor their work and legacy here in Ohio's capital. Be sure to use #OhioWomenVote on all social media when discussing the centennial.

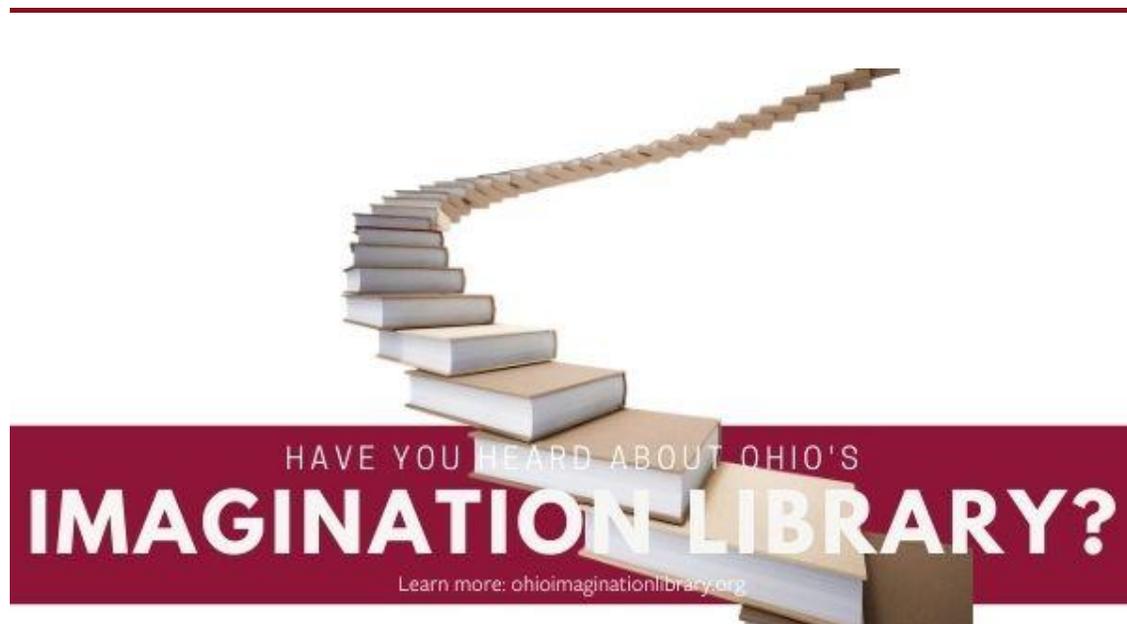
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I was proud to co-sponsor legislation creating an annual '[Sales Tax Holiday](#)' each August. I hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity next weekend to save money while purchasing back-to-school supplies. Here is what you can expect from Friday, August 7, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. to Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:

During the holiday, the following items are exempt from sales and use tax:

- An item of clothing priced at \$75 or less;
- An item of school supplies priced at \$20 or less; and
- An item of school instructional material priced at \$20 or less.
- Items used in a trade or business are not exempt under the sales tax holiday.



On July 18th, I had the opportunity to recognize the participants of the Franklin County Junior Fair Royalty Competition. The Junior Fair was established to promote the interests of Franklin county youth, such as 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, through educational exhibits, competitions, and activities at the annual Franklin County Fair. The young women and men in the competition are passionate leaders in their 4-H clubs and scouting troops and are some of the finest citizens in Franklin county.

Although the fair is not being held in its traditional fashion this year, I was honored to be a part of this proud tradition. I would like to congratulate the participants and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

[Learn More](#)



This month, the Ohio Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 174, which I introduced to designate September 7th as Grateful Patient Day. This day will provide an opportunity to show appreciation for the hard-working professionals in the medical industry as well as the families and caregivers of anyone receiving life-giving medical care. It also honors the indomitable spirit of these courageous patients.

This day designation was developed by former NFL player, Rolf Benirschke, who faced a battle on the field every Sunday. But more importantly, he fought his own personal battle with ulcerative colitis, ostomy surgery, and Hepatitis C—from his numerous blood transfusions—that nearly cost him his life. He has since dedicated his life to patient advocacy and became passionate about encouraging research and innovation related to future therapies.

September 7th will serve as a timely reminder of the sacrifices made by our frontline healthcare workers as they strive to keep us healthy during the current global pandemic.

[Learn More](#)



HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOUR JOB?

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 below.

[Learn More](#)

In the News

ABC 6 (WSYX): [Lawmakers explore repeal of House Bill 6 to regain Ohioans' trust](#)

New York Times: [The Golf Party in This Ohio Town Has It All, Except Fans](#)

ABC 6 (WSYX): [Hilliard businesses receive PPE tool kits](#)

NBC 4 (WCMH): [13-year-old volunteers despite lack of vision](#)

ABC 6 (WSYX): [Ohio company develops thermal imaging tech, a possible key to reopening](#)

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.