



SENATOR STEPHANIE KUNZE

OHIO SENATE, 16TH DISTRICT



NEWSLETTER ISSUE: OCTOBER 2020

Dear Neighbor,

As we approach the holiday season, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our neighbors and the State of Ohio. I am collaborating with my colleagues in the Ohio Senate to [distribute much-needed funds](#) to small businesses, bars and restaurants, and Ohioans faced with losing their homes because of pandemic-related hardships. We will continue to support vulnerable populations, businesses, and local governments in the coming months to ensure that Ohio emerges from this pandemic stronger than ever before.

In the past couple weeks, legislation and initiatives that I have supported have either been signed into law or launched. I was an ardent supporter for the [Women Business Enterprise Program](#) because I recognized the need to encourage, nurture and support the growth of women-owned businesses throughout Ohio. With the program's launch, I look forward to Ohio enjoying a more diverse business community along with introducing quality competitors to the state's marketplace. In addition, Governor DeWine signed into law [Senate Bill 163](#). I sponsored this bill to create the ALS Awareness License Plate as well as the Ohio Bullfrog License Plate. This legislation not only raises awareness of a devastating disease that affects thousands of Americans, but it also honors the work of local students from Dublin.

As we enter the final week of October, it is important that families can enjoy traditions such as trick-or-treat. This year, Central Ohio communities have coordinated their activities with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to ensure safe celebrations across the region. Trick-or-treat events will take place at every municipality within the district on Thursday, October 29th from 6-8pm. You can learn more about what your city is doing for these events by visiting the links in the Halloween resources section below.

I hope everyone enjoys a safe and healthy Halloween this week. If you have any questions or issues regarding the state, you can reach out to my office at Kunze@ohiosenate.gov or by phone at (614) 466-5981.

Be Well and God Bless.

Stephanie Kunze



Our homes have become our safe spaces more than ever during the COVID-19 crisis. This unusual year has created many hardships for Ohio families, and while we focus on getting our state up and running again, we will also do all we can to make sure no one is forced from their home or their water turned off.

Ohio's Controlling Board approved additional CARES Act funding to assist Ohioans who are hurting. These funds will assist low-income Ohioans who are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage, as well as small businesses, bars & restaurants, nonprofits, hospitals, and statewide arts groups. We must continue to make targeted investments to stimulate Ohio's economy. Here is where you will see these dollars distributed:

- **\$125M** in funding for [small businesses](#)
- **\$38M** for Ohio's [bars and restaurants](#)
- **\$50M** for [rent, mortgage and utility assistance](#)
- **\$25M** for non-profits
- **\$20M** for performing arts groups
- **\$100M** for higher education facilities
- **\$62M** for critical access hospitals

Reopen, recover and rebuild. I'm committed to supporting all efforts to help Ohioans who are struggling at this time.

Please visit the below link for more information on who is eligible for these

funds:

[Learn More](#)

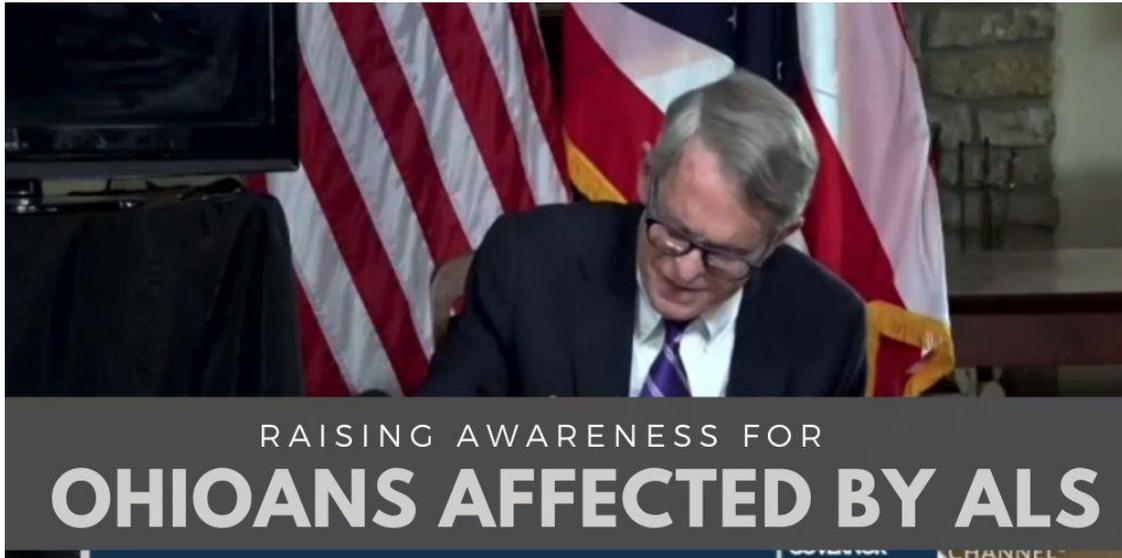


October 2020 marks a historic step forward for Ohio's women-owned businesses. The Women Business Enterprise Program is a statewide initiative designed to help women-owned businesses succeed. The WBE program assists participating businesses in obtaining contracts for goods and services, construction, architecture, engineering, information technology, and professional services.

I'm proud to support the effort in creating this program and promote a diverse business population serving our community.

Check out the steps for WBE certification and benefits of the program in the link below:

[Learn More](#)



Last week, I joined Governor DeWine as he signed [Senate Bill 163](#) into law. I sponsored this bill to create the ALS Awareness License Plate. My hope is that this license plate will bring more awareness to a disease which affects an estimated 16,000 Americans. The bill also included Senate Bill 158, creating the Ohio Bullfrog License Plate. This initiative began in 2010 with a social studies teacher from Dublin's Grizzell Middle School designating the bullfrog as Ohio's state frog. This license plate sets an example for others that through hard work and determination you can affect change in big and small ways at any age.

Senate Bill 163 is the seventh bill I've introduced in this General Assembly that has been enacted into law. I'm proud to share this as I continue working alongside constituents and community leaders to get legislation passed that helps Ohioans. If you have a legislative idea that will improve the lives of Ohioans, I encourage you to contact me.

You can watch the bill signing below:

[Learn More](#)



Clean energy is the future Ohioans deserve. In order to stay competitive on the global market we must continue to implement policy that advances commonsense, market-driven solutions to achieve Ohio's energy independence. I am excited to share that I've been named a 2020 Clean Energy Champion, partially due to my sponsorship of [Senate Bill 346](#).

We learned over the course of the summer about the corruption behind the House of Representatives' introduction and passage of House Bill 6 last year. Though the Senate made changes to the House bill which was subsequently signed by the Governor, we now know that the bill was tainted with corruption from its start in the House. It is imperative that we right this wrong and [repeal House Bill 6](#) to restore Ohioans' confidence in the legislative process. Senate Bill 346 will do so without the shadow of dark money used to accelerate House Bill 6 in the House.

Plain and simple, energy keeps Ohio's lights on by spurring job creation and innovation. Our diverse energy portfolio, including natural gas and renewable resources, is a matter of Ohio's future, health, environment and national security. Ensuring a clean energy future places Ohio in the forefront for worldwide investments and keeps our state moving forward.



Congratulations to Pleasant View, Norton and Brookpark Middle Schools of South-Western City School District on their groundbreakings. As sponsor of [Senate Bill 4](#), I am grateful to play a small role in having helped secure additional state dollars to keep these projects moving forward. I enjoy seeing the great sense of pride that new schools bring to a community and its children. I wish the best of luck to all the young Panthers, Wildcats and Trojans attending these new schools.

Construction is a sign of a healthy community, and these new facilities will be a continuation of the excellence that SWCD brings to Central Ohio. Senate Bill 4 went into effect in mid-October, appropriating \$300 million across Ohio for school facility improvements. We know that supporting our schools is an upstream investment in Ohio's children. It is important that we make sure they have a strong start in life with quality learning facilities. I'm proud of the work that the Ohio Senate has done to invest in Ohio's future.



1 in 8 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. It is a nemesis that knows no age, race, religion or socioeconomic boundaries. By bringing together Ohio's brightest minds, we can and we will save Ohioans battling this disease. I hope you'll use this month as an opportunity to open the lines of communication about breast health, promote breast cancer education, and join me in celebrating the lives of those who have fought and continue to fight breast cancer.

Learn more about community resources available for families battling breast cancer below:

[Learn More](#)



It is always great to recognize local businesses for their accomplishments. Many of you have seen the Pitabilities food truck around Central Ohio. I was honored to welcome them to a permanent storefront in Central Street Market by Hilliard Station Park. Kudos to the Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce and all of the local leaders for sustaining a successful and productive business climate allowing for constant growth!



LOCAL RESOURCES & SAFETY TIPS FOR **TRICK OR TREAT**

Check out the local pages below for more information on what trick-or-treating will look like in your neighborhood. ☐☐☐

[Dublin Halloween](#)

[Grove City Beggars Night](#)

[Hilliard Halloween](#)

[Upper Arlington Halloween](#)

[Worthington Halloween](#)

[City of Columbus Halloween](#)

[MORPC Recommendations](#)

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.