A Message from Senator Fedor

When I first began writing my message for this month's newsletter, I expected it to be a simple one wishing everyone a happy New Year. I never could have imagined the events that would unfold on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol.

The United States has always been seen as a bastion of democracy and a moral compass for the rest of the world. The armed insurrection on the Capitol, incited by the President, flies in the face of everything that makes our country great. Violence and sedition are not the methods with which we choose our leaders in this country. I don't know how long it will take us to heal from the deep wounds January 6th has left us with, but one thing is certain: we must hold those responsible for this attack accountable.

However, a New Year is upon us, which means a new start. While I'm keenly aware of how much work is still left to be done in our state, I have hope for the future. My focuses for this year are cleaning up Lake Erie, combating human trafficking, ensuring a fair redistricting process, Covid-19 economic recovery, accessible and affordable healthcare, constitutional K-12 school funding, criminal justice reform, and common-sense gun safety measures.

It has never been more clear that we have many challenges ahead of us, but with that, so many opportunities to work together. I wish everyone good health in this New Year. Stay safe.
Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Human trafficking is a prevalent but often misunderstood issue. If you do only one thing this month to educate yourself and others, let it be to learn the signs of human trafficking.

Knowing the signs of human trafficking can save a life. Click here to learn more.
Update on Senate Bill 358

Last month, House Bill 409 also passed the Ohio Senate unanimously with several provisions from my bill, Senate Bill 358, joint-sponsored with Senator Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville), which address the pandemic’s impact on K-12 education.

The provisions from Senate Bill 358 will extend a number of measures passed in the spring to address the pandemic’s effects on school districts. These include:

- Waiving state testing where possible
- Freezing state report card scores and new state takeovers
- Extending student promotions and graduation flexibility during the 2020-21 school year

We simply cannot expect our teachers and students to operate as if this school year is the same as any other school year.

Rather than requiring schools to spend their time administering tests, we should allow them to spend that time teaching and learning to ensure all students receive the best education possible. Any support we can provide our teachers and students will alleviate some of the anxieties they continue to face, and I’m so glad to see these provisions of Senate Bill 358 become law.
The Protect Trafficked Minors Act Passes

On December 17th, the Ohio Senate passed House Bill 431, which was amended to include my Protect Trafficked Minors Act. The passage of this bill is a historical moment in the fight to end human trafficking in Ohio.

This legislation finally removes the arbitrary, two-tiered system of treating 16- and 17-year-olds differently than other children who are survivors of human trafficking. This gap in our protections has left thousands of children in Ohio vulnerable and forced our justice system to treat them as criminals, instead of the victims they are.

It has taken 15 years for me to pass this legislation, and over those years, our laws have failed many children. Today, we paved the way to freedom for so many. Finally, all Ohio children can be rescued from the horrors of human trafficking, not arrested.

You can watch my full speech [here](https://teresafedorofficialoffice.moosend.com/show_campaign/f8f0f0c3-b93a-4fed-955a-7f0336c42b1c?fbclid=IwAR34BkIaSjApNS8SSBVsm66ip31-JijJHPVavDy...).
Human Trafficking 101

Are you interested in learning more about human trafficking and meeting the local leaders of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition? Tune in today at 6pm for a Zoom meeting hosted by the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition. The event will also be streamed on the Maumee Bay Club and NANBPWC Facebook pages.

Click here to access the meeting. For additional questions, email amy.lagesse@utoledo.edu.
Spotlight on STARS (Standing Together Against Real Slavery)

On December 23rd, I participated in a toy drive hosted by STARS and Unity United Methodist Church in Northwood, which provided free meals and toys to families.

STARS (Standing Together Against Real Slavery) was founded by my good friend, EleSondra DeRomano, and does amazing work in the Toledo area. Standing Together Against Real Slavery is a survivor-based organization dedicated to supporting and empowering young women who have experienced or are at high risk for commercial sexual exploitation.
In addition to the annual toy drive, STARS hosts **free grab-and-go dinners every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at the Unity United Methodist Church, located at 1910 E. Broadway Northwood, OH 43619. All dinners include dessert and a drink.

I am proud to be able to call EleSondra a friend, and I'm inspired by the work she continues to do with STARS to help the most vulnerable among us.

For more information about STARS and upcoming events, visit their website [here](https://teresafedorofficialoffice.moosend.com/show_campaign/f8f0f0c3-b93a-4fed-955a-7f0336c42b1c?fbclid=IwAR34BkIaSjApNS8SSBVsm66ip31-JijJHPVavDy...).

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**News to Make You Smile**

Toledo first responders start getting COVID-19 vaccinations

A yard full of Happy Meals inspires local family to pay it forward

‘This really happened’: Customer leaves $5,600 tip at Ohio restaurant

Toledo Police donate stuffed animals to children's hospital

Toledo Firefighter celebrates retirement with life-saving reunion
Sign up today!

Advanced English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays
February 2 - May 20
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Class and materials are FREE!

The ADVANCED ESOL class is a special, semester-long class designed for higher-level English language learners, who wish to take college classes or start a career but still need a little extra practice in language and career skills.

By the end of this class, students may be able to enroll in English 111P or start a career search! Successful students also may be eligible for Prior Learning credit (ENG 120 Business Communications).

REGISTER
To register, call the College and Career Readiness Center at (567) 661-2227.

owens.edu/ccr

- ASPIRE placement test required. Lower level students may enroll in regular ESOL classes available in the morning, afternoon or evening.
- Due to federal regulations, students holding an F1 Visa are not eligible for this class or any ASPIRE class.

Your Success Starts Here.
Which Age Group Has the Most COVID-19 Cases in Ohio?

Since the first COVID-19 case was confirmed on March 9, there have been nearly 580,000 cases identified in Ohio, with the number of cases continuing to jump by thousands each day. Early in the pandemic, it appeared that the novel coronavirus mostly impacted older adults.

But the Center for Community Solutions’ analysis of Ohio’s COVID-19 Dashboard data shows that there are more COVID-19 cases among Ohioans in their 20s than any other age group – and it’s been that way since July.

Check out the graph above for more information. If you or someone you know believe they may be infected with Covid-19, find a testing center here.
Free Covid-19 Testing at RiteAid

Do you or someone you know believe they may be infected with Covid-19? RiteAid now offers free testing.

To find a RiteAid location near you, visit their website here.
Covid-19 Vaccine Update

Governor DeWine has announced the next phase of Covid-19 vaccinations in Ohio to begin in early 2021.

In this phase, known as Phase 1B, vaccines will be available to:

- Those who are 65 years or older
- Those living with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders
- Adults working in Ohio's schools

In our current phase, individuals receiving the vaccine are: health care workers and personnel, nursing homes residents and staff, assisted living facilities residents and staff, psychiatric hospital patients and staff, people with developmental disabilities and those with mental illness who live in group homes or centers and staff at those locations, Ohio veterans homes residents and staff, and EMS responders.

As we move into the new year, please remember to continue staying safe and social distancing as much as possible. We will come out on the other side of this pandemic, but it will take time.
Keeping up with the General Assembly

Many people don't know what goes on in their state government, even though it impacts their lives more directly than even the federal government.

In the new year, keep up with the goings-on of the Ohio Legislature with the Ohio Channel. The Ohio Channel streams House and Senate sessions and committee meetings, as well as the Governor's Covid-19 press conference updates. It's so important to stay informed about what your government is doing and I encourage everyone to tune in if they have the chance.

Watch the Ohio Channel here.

Senator Fedor in the News

State senator fears fewer graduations without waiver on end of course exams

Ohio legislature close to shutting down sex trafficking loophole for minors

Ohio passes anti-human trafficking bill

Human trafficking bill protects younger teens

'Stand your ground' bill headed for governor's desk

"Not the ‘Do Something’ They Wanted
Please continue to use my office as a resource for any questions, concerns, or ideas that you may have. If you are in need of assistance, please email Fedor@ohiosenate.gov or call 614-466-5204. If you call, please be sure to leave a message with your name and phone number so we can return your call as quickly as possible. Additionally, please check my Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram pages for more frequent updates.

For health updates from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, click here. For other Ohio-specific information and to read updates about the coronavirus in other languages, click here.

Email Senator Fedor

Connect with Senator Fedor:

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