Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the beautiful days of fall. It is hard to believe we are at the end of another month!

It is my pleasure to serve as your voice in the Ohio Senate. Providing high-quality, timely constituent services is my number one priority as your Senator. You'll find more information at the bottom of this email about the constituent services my office provides. I can be reached by phone at 614-466-5981, e-mail at Kunze@OhioSenate.gov or through my social media pages.

I hope to see you sometime soon in your community, or if you ever visit the Ohio Statehouse, please stop by my office!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kunze
State Senator
Ohio's 16th District
www.ohiosenate.gov/kunze

Working to Provide Food Security in Central Ohio

Recognizing and understanding the importance of food security in our
neighborhoods has been a priority for me in my time in the Ohio Senate. I was pleased to help secure over $25 million in the new state budget for food banks and pantries across the state. Our growing communities need access to nourishing meals, and I was happy to recently visit several local food pantries to see their important work.

**Hilliard Food Pantry**

Founded almost 60 years ago, the Hilliard Food Pantry serves hundreds of families each year. I enjoyed my visit to their new location off of Cemetery Road where they are continuing their important work to improve the health and well-being of our community.

*Learn how you can volunteer with the Hilliard Food Pantry by clicking here.*

**Mid-Ohio Food Bank**

Mid-Ohio Food Bank works with many of our neighborhood food pantries, and their “Food is Health” initiative helps these pantries offer free fresh produce to the families they serve. I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about how they distribute healthy food to 650 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school programs and senior housing sites.

*Learn more or get involved with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, by clicking here.*

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**SBA Chief Visits Dublin Firetruck Manufacturer to Announce Funding to Help**
Small Businesses Grow

It was my honor to join Chris Pilkerton, acting Federal Small Business Administrator, for a tour of Sutphen, a 129-year-old family owned business that exports firetrucks both locally and around the world.

It was impressive to see the impact this small business has on the manufacturing industry and the job opportunities they are creating central Ohioans. During his visit, Administrator Pilkerton announced additional funding being made available to Ohio small businesses to help grow their export business.

Learn More

Hilliard Senior Center Hall of Fame Ceremony
Hilliard’s Senior Citizen Hall of Fame celebrates how senior citizens contribute to their communities. I was proud to attend their annual ceremony where new members were honored for a lifetime of service and personal achievement, as well as their advocacy for a positive image of aging. This year, members from previous classes came back to join the recognition of their fellow Hall of Fame members.

Learn More
In August of 2020, we will mark 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment which would give women the right to vote. Senate Bill 30, which I sponsored, was signed into law by the Governor and created the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission to celebrate this momentous occasion.

This commission has been charged with planning events and educating Ohioans over the course of the next year as we commemorate all those involved in the Women's Suffrage Movement. I look forward to sharing more with you about these opportunities.

Raising Awareness of Important Health Issues

This month I had the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on two bills I recently introduced. Senate Bill 173 would designate September as Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness Month. This is a congenital condition that affects the large intestine causing a lack of nerve cells in the muscles of the colon. Designating September as Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness Month will allow us to raise awareness for those who struggle with or care for individuals with this disease.

Senate Bill 174 would name September 7th as Grateful Patient Day in Ohio, aligning it with the National Day. This day focuses on sharing gratitude for those who care for patients, day in and day out.

Learn more about these bills or other legislation being considered by visiting our website linked below.
Walk to End Alzheimer's

Most of us know someone that has been impacted by Alzheimer's, and that is why the Ohio Senate has made establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Task Force a priority by passing Senate Bill 24. I am proud to co-sponsor this bill and attend the annual walk in support of finding a cure for those affected by this disease.

#Walk2EndAlz

Commission on Infant Mortality

This month I co-chaired the September meeting of the Commission on Infant Mortality. The topic of discussion for this meeting was the importance of fatherhood initiatives in reducing the infant mortality rate. We heard from the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and Dads2Be, two programs that encourage fathers to become involved in the care of their children. We also heard from the Ohio State University’s Kirwin Institute on Race and Ethnicity, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid.
Senator Stephanie Kunze represents the 16th Ohio Senate District, which encompasses a portion of Franklin county. Learn more at www.OhioSenate.gov/Kunze.