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SENATOR STEPHANIE KUNZE

OHIO SENATE, 16TH DISTRICT  NEWSLETTER ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2019

Dear Neighbor,

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I am so grateful to serve as your voice as the State Senator for Ohio's 16th Senate District. It is my goal to make my office a resource to my constituents to help them navigate issues within state agencies and provide information to address concerns they may have.

I also value feedback on the legislation being debated within the Ohio Statehouse. Please know that I thoroughly review all testimony presented during the committee process, as well as emails, letters and phone calls my office receives regarding pending legislative proposals. It is important to me that any legislation I vote for is something the public would support and feel addresses the concerns raised by my constituents.

Below is an update on our recent work in the legislature and various events happening in our community. I truly value the opinions of my constituents, and I encourage you to reach out to me if you find yourself with a question or concern regarding state government. I look forward to hearing from you and I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving!

With Gratitude,

Stephanie Kunze

**Ohio's 3rd Annual Human Trafficking
Youth Prevention Summit**



The Ohio Statehouse hosted the [3rd Annual Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Summit](#). This event brings Ohio's youth advocates together to learn, collaborate and fight against human trafficking. The students attending were able to take part in creating solutions to the issue of human trafficking. We covered a variety of topics including the ways that teens can assure their safety on social media and online.

I was grateful to be a part of the opportunity to host these exceptional students and continue my role in providing a voice for those who have been silenced by traffickers. I look forward to continuing this bipartisan, bicameral effort with my colleagues as we work toward abolishing human trafficking through education, strengthening penalties for the promotion of prostitution and holding traffickers accountable for their crimes.



Strengthening Penalties for the Promotion of Prostitution

This month my bill, [Senate Bill 5](#), passed the Ohio House of

Representatives and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This bill will strengthen criminal penalties for individuals who are convicted of promoting prostitution in Ohio. As prostitution is linked to human trafficking, this bill will give law enforcement another tool to crack down on human traffickers in our state. This bill continues efforts by the Ohio Senate to pass legislation aimed at combatting human trafficking.

Creating Opportunity for Our Military Families

One bill that was recently passed by the Ohio Senate Higher Education Committee, which I chair, is [House Bill 16](#). This bill will grant in-state college tuition to active duty military service members, their spouses, and their dependents. It was appropriate that this bill was passed during the month of Veteran's Day, when we have the opportunity to remember all those who serve our great nation and who have sacrificed so much.

Raising Awareness of Hirschsprung's Disease

This month also saw the passage of [Senate Bill 173](#), which designates September as "Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness Month." [Hirschsprung's Disease](#) is a congenital condition which occurs in approximately one in 5000 live births. This legislation seeks to increase public awareness of this disease and encourages an early diagnosis to receive the best treatment of the disease.

A horizontal banner with a dark red background on the right and a lighter, textured background on the left. The text "Community Events" is centered in white. The background features faint, stylized stars and stripes, suggesting an American flag theme.

Community Events

Girl Scouts VoterGirl! Program



I had the opportunity to speak to an energetic young group of Girl Scouts about how government works. Helping the young ladies earn their Citizenship Badge, I was able to discuss the importance of voting, leadership in our communities, and what it means to be an active citizen. They shared with me examples of how working together with others makes the world a better place. My favorite take aways from the day were the great questions and involvement from the girls and their comment that they learned elected officials are "real people."

From Daisies to Ambassadors, the girls all took the pledge to Be Bold! Be Brave! and Raise their Hand!

Touring Hilliard City Schools' Innovation Campus



Congratulations to Amanda Schaeffer who was recently awarded a grant for her Art and Ecology Class. Thanks to The HUB for having me as a guest speaker to discuss how government impacts the building of community and the importance of art in the community. The HUB is preparing students for success by developing skills that align with students' passions, strengths, and interests. I am grateful the students shared their artwork with me and for the opportunity to listen to the issues that are important to them.

Celebrating Wendy's 50th Birthday

Thank you to Wendy's for having me as a guest for their 50th birthday celebration. We are fortunate to have Wendy's call Dublin home. and I commend the Wendy's Foundation on their work to improve the lives of thousands of children in foster care around the country.

Wendy's is an iconic brand that represents the entrepreneurial spirit, importance of family, and giving back to community.



In the News

Toledo Blade: [Students arm themselves against human traffickers](#)

Columbus Dispatch: [New Franklin County memorial to fallen military members to open Monday](#)

Plain Dealer: [Ohio closer to launching rape-kit tracking system to help victims follow evidence](#)

Constituent Services

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.



1 CAPITOL SQUARE
COLUMBUS, OH 43215



614-466-5981



KUNZE@OHIOSENATE.GOV



@STEPHANIEKUNZEOHIO



@STEPHANIEKUNZE



@OHIOSENATEGOP



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