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Hello,

February, although short, has been a busy month at the Statehouse and around the district! I hope this newsletter provides you with a helpful update on my work on your behalf. The best ideas for legislation come from you, and your feedback and opinions on the policies being considered at the Statehouse are vital to our work. I welcome you to call, email, visit, or connect with me on social media.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you have any thoughts or suggestions to improve our community. I'm available at Kunze@OhioSenate.gov or by phone at (614) 466-5981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Kunze". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Kunze
State Senator
Ohio's 16th Senate District



WORKING TO PREVENT DISTRACTED DRIVING

This month, Governor DeWine and I joined families who have tragically lost loved ones in accidents due to distracted driving to introduce [Senate Bill 285](#), a bipartisan effort to make distracted driving a primary offense. Under this legislation, any use of a cell phone while driving would need to be hands free. I look forward to keeping you updated as this bill begins to receive public hearings. Learn more [here](#).

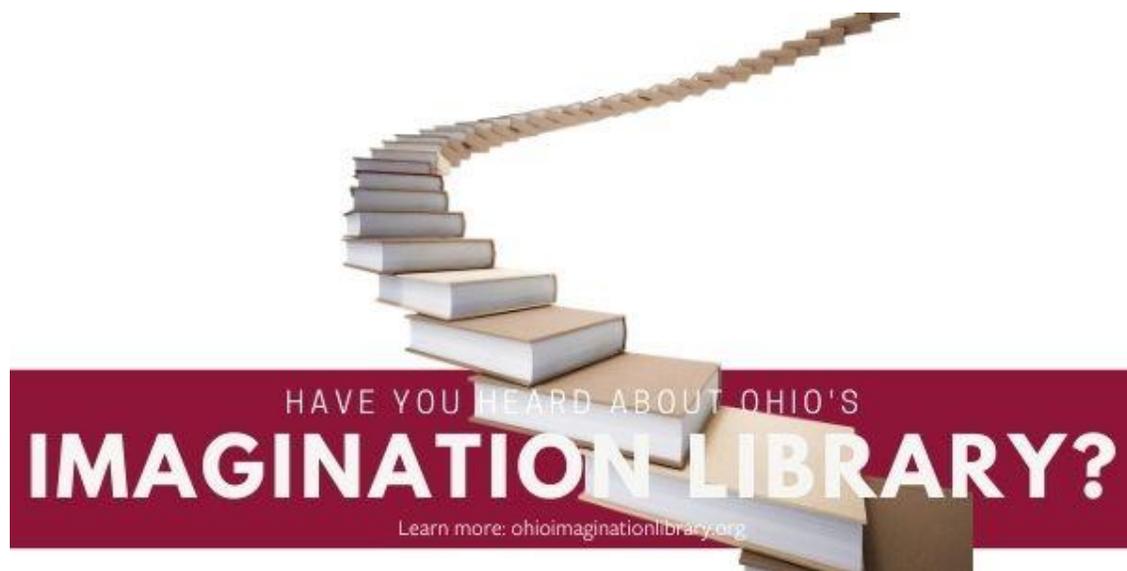


TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE STUDENT SAFETY

In the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee, I provided sponsor testimony on [Senate Bill 253](#) which would revise laws regarding expelling students who make substantive threats of violence. This bill would allow local school boards to adopt a resolution that would enable the superintendent to expel a student for up to one year for communicating a threat or do physical harm to persons or property.

This bill would also allow for the school district to require a student to undergo a mental health evaluation as a condition of reinstatement from an expulsion to

determine if a mental illness is the underlying cause for threats of violence.



Senate Bill 163, which I sponsored, received a unanimous "yes" vote in the Ohio Senate this month, creating an ALS license plate.

During the committee process we heard from countless Ohioans who have been impacted by ALS and seek to bring more awareness to this disease which impacts an estimated 16,000 Americans. All funds generated by this license plate will be paid to the ALS Associations of Ohio to help discover treatments, advocate and serve those who have been diagnosed with ALS.



On February 18th, I joined the children of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus at their Milo-Grogan Clubhouse where they honored me with a lifetime membership.

The rich history of support, guidance, and life skills provided to Central Ohio's youth in need tells a wonderful story. When I asked the children why they liked coming to the Boys & Girls Club, one responded "because I get help with my homework from people who love me."



It was an honor to join First Lady Fran DeWine at Nationwide Children's Hospital for the launch of the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library in Franklin County. This initiative is giving children across Ohio the opportunity to receive new books, and to improve early language development for all of Ohio's children.

I was proud to support a \$5 million investment in this program to start a new chapter in early childhood literacy. With this month being National Library Lovers Month, I hope this program will create a new generation of passionate readers and library goers.

If you would like to learn more about the program, please visit <https://ohioimaginationlibrary.com/>

EXTENDS VOTING FOR OHIO'S PRIMARY ELECTION (AM.SUB. HB 197)

- ✓ EXTENDS ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL FOR THE MARCH 17, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION TO **APRIL 28, 2020**
- ✓ REGISTERED VOTERS **REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT** FROM THEIR COUNTY BOE BY NO LATER THAN NOON ON **APRIL 25, 2020**
- ✓ **COMPLETED BALLOTS** MUST BE POSTMARKED **BY APRIL 27, 2020** OR DROPPED AT THEIR BOE SECURE CURBSIDE BOX **BY APRIL 28, 2020**
- ✓ INCLUDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR IN-PERSON VOTING FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES OR FOR THOSE UNABLE TO RECEIVE MAIL

Contact Your Senator at www.OhioSenate.gov



www.Coronavirus.Ohio.gov / 1-833-4-ASK-ODH

I was proud to honor a constituent of mine at Grove City's Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Kaitlin Francis has been a long time volunteer at Mid-Ohio Foodbank, and continued her philanthropy today by being awarded a community grant from her employer, Spectrum.

Kudos to Spectrum for investing in the community of their employees and congratulations to Kaitlin on this well-deserved recognition.

SUPPORT FOR OHIO'S STUDENTS, TEACHERS & FAMILIES (AM.SUB. HB 197)

- ✓ WAIVES K-12 STANDARDIZED TESTING AND SCHOOL REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS
- ✓ PERMITS OHIO'S SENIORS TO GRADUATE IF THEIR PRINCIPAL DETERMINES THEY ARE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE
- ✓ PROVIDES CONTINUITY FOR STUDENT LUNCH PROGRAMS
- ✓ REMOVES LIMITS ON K-12 DISTANCE LEARNING, PROVIDES TELEHEALTH OPTIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

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I recently hosted a great group of Girl Scouts in the Senate Chamber. The girls asked wonderful questions about state government and leadership. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

I have no doubt that this group of girls will be future leaders!

In the News

Columbus Dispatch: [DeWine, families of victims back bill making distracted-driving laws tougher](#)

ThisWeek Community News: [Swimming & Diving: New Albany girls, Upper Arlington boys win Division I district titles](#)

ABC 6: [North Market announces more merchants joining Dublin Bridge Park location ahead of opening](#)

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.