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SENATOR STEPHANIE KUNZE

OHIO SENATE, 16TH DISTRICT  NEWSLETTER ISSUE: APRIL 2020

Dear neighbor,

This month has been hard for many of us, but our efforts are "flattening the curve" and we are hopeful that we can start returning to a more normal life soon.



We will soon reopen businesses and resume our daily routines while following public health measures and protecting those most vulnerable. Ohioans have done their job staying at home and practicing healthy standards, but we still need to continue these practices to ensure that we will emerge from this crisis safely and responsibly. This week, Governor DeWine announced his plan, [Responsible Restart Ohio](#), which includes guidance and protocols to safely help Ohioans get back to work.

COVID-19
Responsible Protocols
FOR GETTING OHIO BACK TO WORK

To the class of 2020, although traditions and ceremonies may have been affected, that does not take away from what you have accomplished. Your

journey will continue, as will the friendships you've created, the lessons you have learned, and the bright futures you hold. Know that your family, friends, and community are here to support you as you finish your classes and move onto your next chapter. I am proud of your composure during this crisis, and I wish you the best of luck in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank those on the front lines: the healthcare workers, the grocery store employees, the first responders, the delivery truck drivers and others for guiding us through these difficult times with strength and courage.

Our work is far from over, and as we all continue to face new challenges every day, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you have ideas or need help accessing state resources. I'm available at Kunze@OhioSenate.gov or by phone at (614) 466-5981.

Be Well and God Bless.

Stephanie Kunze



Governor DeWine activated Ohio's National Guard on March 18th. Since then, over 600 servicemen and women have been spread across Ohio. These brave men and women have been providing humanitarian relief in our communities. Their efforts are being put forth to support local food banks, assist the Ohio Department of Health with the consolidation of medical supplies and support Ohio's medical staff by providing medical services, equipment and transportation for patients.

I am grateful for the work that the Ohio National Guardsmen and women are doing tirelessly everyday to support Ohioans impacted by this pandemic. If you see a member of Ohio's National Guard in the community be sure to thank

them for their dedication and service to Ohio.

[Learn More](#)



I was grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with The Children's Hunger Alliance this month. This organization does so much to help families in need and they have remained committed to help feed children affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of meals will be distributed to children around Central Ohio in the coming weeks thanks to this wonderful organization.

Remember that there are still ways to give back to your community, whether that is delivering meals to your neighbors, donating blood, or volunteering at a local food bank. This is a time to lift up others who need it most.

If you would like to help or learn more about the Children's Hunger Alliance click the link below.

[Learn More](#)



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ohio, a month to highlight and create awareness about the importance of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. This is even more important during a time that is creating additional stress and burdens on our families.

The Everyday Ohio Heroes campaign recognizes everyday heroes who make our community a safe place for families and children. I am honored to Chair the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board, and it was a pleasure to partner with Lindsay Williams, Executive Director of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, to raise awareness for this campaign as well as offer tips for parents during this difficult time. Acts of encouragement and kindness go a long way to foster a safe and loving household.

Learn more about our work to prevent child abuse and neglect by clicking the link below.

[Learn More](#)



HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOUR JOB?

Lt. Governor Husted recently announced that the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation has developed a website specifically geared toward matching essential businesses with Ohioans who are able and willing to work as an essential employee during the COVID-19 crisis. Over 50,000 jobs have been [posted](#) coming from 866 unique companies.

Both essential businesses and current job seekers can post and search.

The site features a highly-streamlined interface with only two main links – one for essential businesses, and one for job seekers. Applicants can search through jobs in their area, their region, and the entire state.

[Learn More](#)



LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RELIEF

Last month, I shared with you efforts put forth by the legislature to provide much needed relief to Ohioans impacted by closures due to coronavirus. I am proud to share some of the action that is being taken combining Ohio's efforts alongside federal assistance:

- \$25 million in federal school lunch and breakfast dollars used for the [Summer Food Service Program](#) to ensure students can continue to receive meals at home
- An additional \$20 million in federal reimbursements for the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP)
- An additional \$9.5 million over the next two fiscal years for the federal [Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program](#) (TEFAP)
- \$500k for counties to upgrade technologies to meet the demands of the emergency
- \$87.8 million for the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to purchase 2,000 ventilators and 22 million N95 masks
- \$102.45 million for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to purchase PPE for distribution to county EMAs, hospitals, and other medical facilities, and to cover costs at the State Emergency Operations Center
- \$50.9 million for the Department of Health for statewide specimen collection, specimen collection kit manufacture, medications, external testing services, laboratory personnel costs and supplies, develop technologies to alert users of localized outbreaks, and data analysis
- \$11.35 million for the Adjutant General to establish temporary medical facilities, PPE purchases and pay for active duty pay for 750 National Guard and State Defense Forces
- \$35 million for the Office of Budget and Management to reimburse agencies without standalone Coronavirus Relief lines

This work will continue. I pledge to remain diligent in listening to feedback from our communities in order to adapt relief efforts to those in need. Please [contact me](#) if you have advice or are seeking assistance.



Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

**COVID CareLine:
1-800-720-9616**

Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

#IN THIS TOGETHER
Ohio

Many Ohioans are struggling with increased anxiety and depression during these challenging times. Ohio's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services created Ohio's COVID-19 Careline. This line is serving as a place to go for those looking for guidance on behavioral health resources that are available during this time.

If someone is in need of emotional support, please direct them to the following:

- Call **1-800-720-9616** to talk to a licensed professional.
- Visit <http://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus> for additional resources.

[Learn More](#)



In difficult times, a few local businesses and neighbors made sure to take care of their community.

When some children did not know where their next meal would come from, a local business stepped up. Romeo's Pizza in Hilliard donated dozens of pizzas a day to students at Westland High School. The goal is to deliver a pizza to each student of Westland by the end of May.

Swenson's Drive-In, in partnership with The Starfish Assignment, made sure our first-responders were taken care of. They provided meals to two shifts of Columbus Police officers in the 13 precinct. Special thanks to The Starfish Assignment and Deb Papesh for their efforts to make this possible and for their continued support of our local law enforcement.

10-year-old Lucy Sullivan from Worthington utilized one of her Christmas gifts, a sewing machine, to help the homeless. She made 15 masks in her free time, which were later donated to Capital Crossroads Downtown and their homeless outreach program.

These acts of kindness highlight how in times like these, we act to lift our neighbors and those who are struggling. I would like to thank Romeo's Pizza, the administrators and staff at Westland High School, Swenson's Drive-In, Lucy Sullivan, and the numerous local businesses and neighbors who show generosity and compassion even as they are struggling.

In the News

NBC 4: [Hilliard honors senior student-athletes during coronavirus shutdown](#)

ThisWeek (Dublin Villager): [New benches' arrival caps Hilliard, Dublin students' recycling efforts](#)

ThisWeek (Grove City Record): [Grove City's farmers market turns to internet service](#)

10TV CBS: [Worthington 10-year-old sews face masks for the homeless](#)

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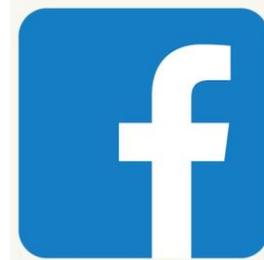
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Senator Stephanie Kunze represents the 16th Ohio Senate District, which encompasses a portion of Franklin county. Learn more at www.OhioSenate.gov/Kunze.