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Dear Neighbor,

As we move into the autumn months, the Ohio Senate continues to focus on reopening, recovering and rebuilding our state from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, we passed numerous bills focused on supporting Ohio families, schools, communities and small businesses. Our local governments are still struggling with financial and budgetary restraints, and I was proud to co-sponsor and vote in favor of legislation that sends relief funding to counties, local municipalities, and townships while they are addressing this public health crisis.

Additionally, two of my bills, expanding medicaid coverage for expectant moms and protecting the safety of students at school, were passed with overwhelming and bipartisan support. You can read more about these pieces of legislation in the newsletter below.

COVID-19 has also created financial hardships that have led to evictions, and I'm working with my colleagues on Senate Bill 343, a bipartisan effort which would provide people the opportunity to expunge an eviction from their record. It is my duty as a public servant to represent the interest of our struggling neighbors by enacting common sense laws that improve their livelihoods.

As we look to the future, there is much work to be done, and I will continue to stand up for Ohioans and work toward a better and brighter future. If you have any questions or issues regarding the state, you can reach out to my office at [Kunze@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Kunze@ohiosenate.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-5981.

Be Well and God Bless.

*Stephanie Kunze*

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The November election is only five weeks away, and Ohio's polling locations need poll workers. On Election Day, thousands of Ohioans play an important role in our democracy by helping to operate neighborhood polling places. They work hard to ensure their neighbors have a positive experience when casting a ballot and help safeguard the process so all Ohioans can have confidence in the results. Join us on the front lines of democracy and exercise your civic duty by signing up to be a poll worker today.

[Learn More](#)



A student should never enter their school feeling unsafe. Unfortunately, we have seen cases around our state of school employees with a history of prior misconduct still being hired in our school districts. These individuals have no place in our schools, and they place students at risk for mental, physical, or

sexual abuse. This dangerous loophole is unacceptable and is why I am sponsoring [Senate Bill 34](#).

We must do everything we can to ensure the safety for our students. My bill will require the Ohio Department of Education to share reports of criminal behavior as well as close loopholes that have allowed contractors with bad intentions to enter school grounds.

Last week, Senate Bill 34 passed the Ohio Senate unanimously with bipartisan support. I look forward to the House's swift passage of this legislation.

[Learn More](#)



Our local governments continue to be on the front lines of not only protecting us but also helping our communities safely reopen and operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has put a significant drain on their resources, and I was proud to vote for the release of relief funding to support local governments.

Senate Bill 357, which ultimately passed the legislature as House Bill 614, is the third round of funding approved by the Senate to support our community partners. In total, S.B. 357 provides an additional \$650 million of federal CARES Act funding to local communities across Ohio for COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses. **Nearly \$8 million will be sent to townships, villages, and cities across the 16th Senate District.** This funding will be made available to counties, municipalities and townships for necessary expenses associated with the current public health emergency.

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Last week, my colleagues and I voted in support of legislation I sponsored to increase access to healthcare for birthing mothers. Senate Bill 328 expands medicaid coverage to expecting moms who choose to utilize a certified doula during their birth. It was passed with bipartisan support and is a step forward in targeting resources to moms in high-need communities.

I also chair the Ohio Commission on Infant Mortality (CIM) where we are discussing the impacts that COVID-19 has had on mortality rates around our state. We heard from those at the grassroots level who are working to find solutions to these unanswered questions, and we continue to work together to discuss government support, private intervention and the benefits we have seen from tele-health visits.

Our work is far from over, and our conversation will continue in October. I look forward to providing you the next update from Ohio's Commission on Infant Mortality.

[Learn More](#)

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September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, so don't forget to hop on board and sign up! Many of our local libraries have reopened and are safely serving our community and students. I have my card number memorized, making the checkout process easy.

Ohio's public libraries play a critical role in building healthy communities through education, connections, and innovation. Our libraries provide access to technology, educational programs, as well as job and career help. They do it all for free and have continued serving us during a global health pandemic. From preschool story time, K-12 homework help, access to broadband and technology, and workforce development, libraries continue to serve our neighborhood.

Upper Arlington's Public Library has adapted the way they serve our community by creating "take-it-and-make-it" craft kits for children and adults available for pickup. They're offering mobile curbside printing and customized movie bundles based on an individual's interests.

All of this and more is accessible through a library card, sign up now!

[Learn More](#)

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Earlier this month, I joined the Dublin Chamber of Commerce in a celebration of their 45th anniversary. Alongside Congressman Troy Balderson, we made stops at a few of Dublin's local business partners. We toured Ease Logistics, Leading EDJE, La Chatelaine French Bakery and Bistro, and Hidaka USA Inc. Dublin's business community is stronger than ever, and companies focused on innovation continue to drive Central Ohio's economy into the future.

We are fortunate to have diverse industries represented in the 16th Senate District, and I enjoy talking with business owners across my district about the opportunities and challenges they have. Their insight helps me be a better partner and advocate for growth.

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## In the News

**This Week Community News (Hilliard):** [Hilliard History Lives: One-room schoolhouse shows legacy of education](#)

**This Week Community News (Dublin):** [Dublin Arts Council tour is also part scavenger hunt](#)

**Toledo Blade:** [Ohio Senate votes to distribute federal coronavirus aid](#)

**CBS 10 (WBNS):** [Ohio Senate passes bill to expand outdoor seating for bars, restaurants](#)

**This Week Community News (Grove City):** [Grove City's Arts in the Alley has new dates, format](#)

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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 16<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District, which encompasses a portion of Franklin county. Learn more at [www.OhioSenate.gov/Kunze](http://www.OhioSenate.gov/Kunze).