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SENATOR STEPHANIE KUNZE

OHIO SENATE, 16TH DISTRICT  NEWSLETTER ISSUE: OCTOBER 2019

Dear Neighbor,

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!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kunze
State Senator
Ohio's 16th Senate District
www.OhioSenate.gov/Kunze

Honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the Statehouse



The Ohio Senate recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month during session this week, and we were pleased to honor the many advocacy, support and treatment organizations throughout Ohio.

It was an honor meeting with constituents to hear their stories of living with breast cancer. This disease affects so many friends and families across Ohio, and a day of recognition is just one step in uniting to find a cure.

I commend all of the survivors, medical professionals, advocates, and those currently fighting breast cancer for their tireless work to end this disease.

Providing Tax Relief for Ohio's Teachers



My bill, Senate Bill 26, which allows teachers to claim a \$250 tax deduction for school supply expenses, mirroring the federal tax deduction that educators are currently able to claim recently passed and is on the way to the Governor for signature.

My bill also contained an amendment to exempt feminine hygiene products from sales tax. The repeal of the “pink tax” allows women to save money on products that are a necessity, not a luxury item.

Senate Bill 26 also contained an amendment that allows Medicaid recipients who have a prescription for incontinence products, to obtain these tax free. This sales tax repeal helps some of the most vulnerable in our society receive medically necessary items at a lower cost.

Maternal Mortality Awareness Month



As Co-Chair of the Infant Mortality Commission, I was pleased to speak in favor of Senate Bill 151, a bipartisan bill I cosponsored that would designate May as Maternal Mortality Awareness Month. According to the Center for Disease Control, half of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. I'm hopeful more awareness and education will drive better health outcomes for mothers across our state.

Community Events

Storytime to Prevent Crime



I was honored visit the South-Western City School's Bostic Head Start Center as a guest reader alongside Grove City's Police Chief Rick Butsko as well as receive the "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Ohio Champion Award." I read to a group of children stories of friendship and the importance of teamwork. We know that just 15 minutes a day of reading to children helps tremendously for early cognitive development.

Making crucial investments in upstream services and early childhood education has been a priority for me in the Senate, and I am proud to have fought for increased funding and services for our youth in our new two-year operating budget, which became effective this month.

To check out NBC 4's coverage from this event, click [here](#).

Central Ohio is Open for Business



I was happy to welcome UPS as they opened their twelfth UPS Integrad driver training facility. UPS's training model places their drivers into hands-on, real life, scenarios.

The opening of this state-of-the-art facility will continue to drive employers and jobs to central Ohio, and I am fortunate to have these hard-working folks in my district.

Workforce development is a great tool to bring Ohio's employees into the next generation of jobs. As a member of the Senate Transportation, Workforce and Commerce Committee, as well as a member of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, I will continue to prioritize making central Ohio an attractive place to do business and find jobs.

For more information on Ohio's Workforce Development initiatives, click [here](#).

Girls Tech Day in Central Ohio



I had the opportunity to spend time with students from across central Ohio for Girls Tech Day, hosted by the Hilliard City School District. Participating young women ranged from grades 3 to 12 and the event was in partnership with Amazon Web Services.

The program was inspired to empower young girls and show them various interests and careers in technology. I loved seeing the bright young students come together and the confidence it instilled in a display of what Ohio's future generations will accomplish.

In the News

10TV CBS: [Repeal of Ohio's 'pink tax' headed to governor](#)

ABC6: [Tyler's Law passes Ohio Senate two years after State Fair tragedy](#)

Toledo Blade: [Ohio Senate votes to expand beds for severely mental ill](#)

10TV CBS: [Dublin celebrates corn sculpture's 25th anniversary](#)

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.