

Statehouse News

From the Office of Representative Allison Russo



A Note from Representative Russo

This month, I was appointed to my sixth committee in the Ohio House: Armed Services & Veterans' Affairs. This is in addition to my previous appointments to the committees on Health, Financial Institutions, Aging and Long-Term Care, State and Local Government, and the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. Some of the most important work on the details of proposed legislation occurs during committee meetings.

Speaking of committees, it has been busy month of committee work, with some Health Committee hearings lasting over seven hours! At the request of some members including myself, more and more committee hearings are being broadcast live and available online at www.ohiochannel.org/live. All House Sessions are also broadcast live. This is a great way for you to stay abreast of all of the important work that is happening in the Statehouse, especially as the House works its way through the General Revenue Fund budget.

Allison Russo

Look Back: March 2019

Rep. Russo helped unveil the Democratic legislative agenda this month at a statewide press conference. Speaking on behalf of the caucus, the Representative shared her family's story about moving to Ohio and spoke about the importance of maintaining Ohio's promise for future generations. Rep. Russo emphasized her commitment to put people first and invest in our state to grow jobs, build a better economy and get people the tools they need – like healthcare and a secure retirement – for a better life.



Rep. Russo also joined Rep. Bride Sweeny at the Komen Foundation's Advocacy Training in Columbus. She spoke to community activists and healthcare advocates about making change in our community. A lot of this month was spent preparing for and participating in Health Committee, which sees much of Ohio's most important and controversial legislation. Rep. Russo knows how important it is that the citizens

of her district know how to effectively advocate for their right to quality, affordable healthcare!

Rep. Russo also joined Sen. Stephanie Kunze in hosting 85 Upper Arlington High School students for UA Idea Day! These students spent a morning meeting with current and former policy makers and staffers about potential careers in government at the Statehouse and beyond.



Commendations and Condolences from Rep. Allison Russo

Congratulations to the **Courtney Elrod** on being named the 2019 National Association of Social Workers—Ohio Chapter Emerging Leader.

Congratulations to **George Sorge** on being named the Ohio VFW Firefighter of the Year Award. Thank you for your service to our community!

Congratulations to **Hilliard Darby High School** on winning the National Athletic Trainers' Association's Safe Sports School Award.
Go Panthers!

Condolences to the family and friends of **John Bender** upon his death. We honor his memory and the contributions he made to our community.

Condolences to the family, friends, and students of **Chris Collaros**, beloved principal of Wickliffe Progressive Elementary School. We all mourn this tremendous loss for our community.

Issue Spotlight: Transportation Budget

This month, the House passed a bipartisan two-year transportation budget. While the transportation budget certainly isn't perfect, the deal reached between Democrats and Republicans makes historic investments in public transit and local communities for road and bridge repairs.

HB 62, the bill that includes hundreds of pages on transportation-related appropriations, makes historic investments in local communities, including a promise of \$140 million for the state's public transit systems over the next two years, as well as a 12.5 percent increase for the local community share of new gas tax revenue, resulting in over \$700 million during the next two years.

The bill also increases Ohio's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 10 percent to 30 percent of an individual's federal tax credit and removes a 50 percent EITC cap for those with incomes above \$20,000.

"This was a long process, but we did what our constituents asked us to do: make the tough calls required for governing," said Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington). "I'm pleased that we were able to successfully negotiate across the aisle to protect many of our previous Democratic demands for the people of Ohio like safe roads and bridges, more money for local governments and a historic investment in public transit."

Upcoming Events:

CMC: Ohio's Progress Towards Health Value
April 3, 12pm; Columbus Boat House

Stonewall Columbus Ribbon Cutting Celebration
April 18, 5:15pm; 1160 N. High St.

Upper Arlington Community Foundation Meeting
April 23, 8am; Amelita Mirolo Barn

South-Western City Schools Edu. Foundation Fundraiser
April 25, 6:30pm; The Darby House

2019 Women's Lobby Day at the Statehouse
May 2, 9am; Riffe Center 3rd Floor

"Statehouse at Home"

Come and meet with Rep. Russo to discuss the issues facing our community. Any and all constituents are welcome to attend.

Upper Arlington Office Hours

April 23, 25, 4-5:30pm; Tremont Library, Room AC

Clintonville Office Hours

April 23, 6-7:30pm; Whetstone Library Meeting Room

Hilliard Office Hours

April 25, 4-5:30pm; Hilliard Library, Room 2A

Legislative Agenda

Introducing "Madeline's Law" Requiring Insurance Coverage of Child Hearing Aids" with Rep. Casey Weinstein (D—Hudson)

Co-Sponsoring HB 186 "Comprehensive Railroad Safety Legislation" with Reps. Michael Sheehy (D—Oregon) and Brett Hillyer (R—Uhrichsville)

Co Sponsoring the "Child Firearm Access Prevention Act" with Reps. Jessica Miranda (D—Forest Park) and Brigid Kelley (D—Cincinnati)

Co-Sponsoring bill to establish "Women's Veterans Day" with Reps. Laura Lanese (R—Grove City) and Casey Weinstein (D—Hudson)

Co-Sponsoring HR 77 "Fully Fund Ohio's Military Installations" with Reps. Rick Perales (R—Beaver Creek) and Casey Weinstein (D—Hudson)

Co-Sponsoring HB 165 "Health Education Standards for Grades K-12" with Reps. Beth Liston (D—Dublin) and Tavia Galonski (D—Akron)

Co-Sponsoring HB 154 "Dissolve and Replace Academic Distress Commissions" with Reps. Joe Miller (D—Amherst) and Don Jones (R—Freeport)