

Statehouse News

From the Office of Representative Allison Russo



A Note from Representative Russo

As the newly-elected State Representative for Ohio's 24th district, I will always strive to represent this district with integrity and transparency. This monthly newsletter will aim to keep you informed about your state government and the work that I will be doing on your behalf. If you have a question, concern, or idea that you would like to share with me, please email my office at Rep24@OhioHouse.gov. You can also come and talk to me in person at regular "Statehouse at Home" events, where I have an open-door policy with any constituent who would like to meet with me. These events will be published in this newsletter and on Facebook and Twitter.

I am so honored to have the opportunity to represent you in the Statehouse and to be a neighbor in this wonderful community we call home.

Allison Russo

A Look Back: January 2019

We started off the month with Rep. Russo's official swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 7th. Rep. Russo was surrounded by her family as she took the oath of office and was cheered on by over 40 community members who visited the Statehouse to witness the event and chat with their new State Representative!



This month, Rep. Russo traveled around the 24th District to begin visiting schools and local elected leaders. She also welcomed some amazing kids from the district to the Statehouse, including Cub Scouts from Clintonville, award winning inventors from Columbus City Schools, and elementary students from Upper Arlington. If you would like to schedule a tour of the Statehouse with your group, call our office at (614) 466-8012. We are happy to set that up for you!

The Representative also joined thought and practice leaders from across the industry and state to participate in a round-table discussion on maternal and infant health in Ohio. The gathered experts and policy makers discussed solutions to our rising infant and maternal mortality crisis, paying special attention to the disparities impacting women and babies of color. The bipartisan panel was convened by new Democratic Caucus Minority Leader Rep. Emilia Sykes (D—Akron) and the district's own Senator Stephanie Kunze (R—Hilliard).



We've had a busy first month at the Ohio Statehouse! We are looking forward to the formation of committees in February and continuing to work on behalf of our community members!

Commendations and Condolences from Rep. Allison Russo

Condolences to the family and friends of **Nancy Bell Stewart** upon her death. We honor her memory and the contributions she made to the Clintonville community.

Congratulations to 5th grader **June Hambach** on her Industry and Consumer Fashion Award at the 2018 Ohio State Invention Convention, for the invention of "The Bow Tube."

Congratulations to **Theodore "Ted" Stanton** on his retirement as City Manager of Upper Arlington. We pay tribute to Ted's generosity and dedication to our community.

Congratulations to **Carol Mohr** on her tenure as President of the Upper Arlington Board of Education. We thank her for her service and continuing work on the Board of Education.

Issue Spotlight: Protecting Medicaid

This month, **Rep. Russo** was appointed to the **Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee**, an important bicameral, bipartisan body that oversees the various facets of Ohio's Medicaid program.

"Ohioans deserve the security of knowing that when they or a loved one are sick or injured, they'll be able to get the care they need. That's why I ran for office," said Rep. Russo. "I look forward to bringing my experience to this committee to help address some of the critical healthcare issues facing Ohio families, like addiction, infant mortality and an aging population. By working together, we can promote efficiency, protect the integrity of Medicaid and improve health outcomes for all Ohioans, especially our most vulnerable."

Medicaid plays a critical role in helping people, especially the elderly and people with disabilities, get needed healthcare. It is also a tool for many low-income Ohioans to become self-sufficient and stable. Ohio's Medicaid expansion, which provides health insurance coverage to more than 700,000 individuals, grows the economy by building a healthy workforce, creating new jobs, and providing necessary revenue to keep rural hospitals open, ensuring the availability of essential services on the frontlines of Ohio's most pressing health concerns. A strong Medicaid program is essential in solving Ohio's addiction crisis, our rising infant and maternal mortality rates, and our looming elder care crisis.

Upcoming Events:

"Health Care Issues Today, This Year and in the Future"
February 4, 7-8:30pm; Whetstone Library, Public Meeting Room

Columbus Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting
February 7, 7-9:15pm; Columbus Convention Center

Women of Power Reception, Honorary Co-Host
February 19, 5:30-7:30pm; Capital Club

"Statehouse at Home"

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

Hilliard Office Hours

February 25, 4:30-6pm; Hilliard Library, Room 2A

Upper Arlington Office Hours

February 25, 6:30-8pm; Tremont Library, Room B

Clintonville Office Hours

February 28, 6:30-8pm; Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Human Trafficking Awareness Day at the Statehouse
February 28, 8:30am-4pm; Ohio Statehouse

Legislative Agenda

Co-Sponsoring "Daycare Parental Notification Bill" with Rep. Rick Carfagna (R—Genoa Township)

Co-Sponsoring bill "Exempting Feminine Hygiene Care From State Sales Tax" with Reps. Brigid Kelly (D—Cincinnati) and Niraj Antani (R—Miamisburg)

Co Sponsoring "The Ohio Veteran's Exemption Payment Act" with Reps. Erica Crawley (D—Columbus) and Nino Vitale (R—Urbana)

Co-Sponsoring the "Eliminate Ohio's Marriage Penalty Tax" with Reps. David Leland (D—Columbus) and John Becker (R—Union Township)

Co-Sponsoring bill "Treating Uniformed Service Members/Family as Residents for In-State Tuition" with Rep. Rick Perales (R—Beavercreek)

Co-Sponsoring bill "Modernizing Our Minimum Wage" with Rep. Brigid Kelly (D—Cincinnati)

Co-Sponsoring the "Kinship Care Navigator Program" with Rep. Janine Boyd (D—Cleveland Heights)

Co-Sponsoring "Paid Parental Leave Act" with Reps. Janine Boyd (D—Cleveland Heights) and Kristin Boggs (D—Columbus)