

# Statehouse News

*From the Office of Representative Allison Russo*



## A Note from Representative Russo

Wow! I cannot believe it has already been two months in my new job as your State Representative! The last month has been busy meeting with people and leaders around the 24<sup>th</sup> district, diving into the details of new legislation, learning about priorities for the upcoming state budget, and building relationships with my new colleagues.

I have also enjoyed meeting and talking with many of you at our "Statehouse at Home" events, which began in February. These in-district meetings are a great way to learn about what's happening at the Statehouse and to tell me first-hand about the issues impacting you and your families. These events will continue to be published in this newsletter and on Facebook and Twitter, and I hope to see you soon. 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.

A handwritten signature of Allison Russo in black ink.

## Look Back: February 2019

This month, Rep. Russo was appointed to four committees in the Ohio House: Health, Financial Institutions, Aging and Long-Term Care, and State and Local Government. These committees are in addition to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, which the Representative was appointed to last month. Rep. Russo was excited to get to work on her committee assignments, hearing issues that impact every member of our community.



Rep. Russo was proud to stand with Wright State faculty and students, many from our district, and AAUP -WSU on Feb. 8th as they rallied for fair bargaining and employment protections. In addition, the Representative joined the rest of the Democratic caucus in calling on the WSU Board of Trustees to end the strike, which was finally resolved on March 11th.

Rep. Russo enjoyed meeting with community and business leaders from around the district this month as well. Our office toured a Cardinal Health distribution center in Groveport, the Hollywood Casino, the Early Childhood Education Center at the Franklin Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities, and met with the Columbus Airport Port Authority. We also had many local business owners visit us in our office! Pictured here: The owners of Hidden Creek Landscaping Inc. (Hilliard) and Riepenhoff Landscaping (Hilliard).



## Commendations and Condolences from Rep. Allison Russo

Condolences to the family and friends of **Joanie Dugger** upon her death. We honor her memory and the contributions she made to the Upper Arlington community.

Congratulations to the **Clintonville Moo Moo Express Car Wash** on being named the 2019 Business of the Year by the Clintonville Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to Upper Arlington business **The Haven Collective** on their one year anniversary of opening. Here's to many more years of success!

Congratulations to **Battalion Chief Ted Kienzle** upon his retirement from the Norwich Township Fire Department. Thank you for your years of service to our community!

## Issue Spotlight: Prevailing Wage and Worker Protections

Prevailing wage laws ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent on high-quality public works and that workers are paid a livable wage. This month, House Bill 78 was introduced by two of my colleagues to make Ohio's prevailing wage law optional for large local government and university construction projects. Similar anti-prevailing wage bills have been introduced in prior General Assemblies, as have repeated right-to-work bills and proposals that do away with project labor agreements. These bills are often introduced under the guise of market freedom, but these anti-worker bills ultimately reduce wages, limit the power of employees to negotiate fair contracts, make working conditions less safe for employees and employers alike, and stall the efficiency of small businesses, limiting their ability to make long-term financial decisions amid regular proposed changes to employment law.

HB 78 is designed to reduce pay for skilled labor by eliminating prevailing wage requirements in Ohio. Prevailing wage legislation, which has been law in Ohio for 88 years, ensures that workers earn a fair wage. Laws like HB 78 would reduce the efficiency and safety of projects and cut worker pay, harming the public interest and workers alike.

It is important for our elected leaders to continue to defend the dignity of work in this state. I am heartened to see a bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Republican Speaker Larry Householder, agree that HB 78 takes Ohio in the wrong direction. It would hurt both the integrity of our public projects and the workers who construct them. I will continue to be a vocal advocate for Ohio's workers, and to push responsible public policy that continues to make Ohio a great place to work.

### Upcoming Events:

- "State of the State" Address by Governor Mike DeWine  
March 5, 12:00pm; The Ohio Statehouse
- Community Conversation on Issues that Impact Women  
March 8, 2:30-4:30pm; 231 E Livingston Ave
- WABA 28th Annual Dinner Auction  
March 10, 5pm; Hollywood Casino Event Hall
- "Public Schools and Policy" A Public Forum  
March 11, 6-8:30; UA Library, Friends Theater
- Speaking at the Tri-Village Rotary Club  
March 27, 7:30a.; 3605 Tremont Road
- "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**  
March 25, 4:30-6pm; Hilliard Library, Room 2A
- Upper Arlington Office Hours**  
March 25, 6:30-8pm; Tremont Library, Room A
- Clintonville Office Hours**  
March 27, 6:30-8pm; Gethsemane Lutheran Church

### Legislative Agenda

- Co-Sponsoring HB 16 "Treating Uniformed Service Members/Family as Residents for In-State Tuition" with Rep. Rick Perales (R—Beavercreek)
- Co Sponsoring HB 18 "The Ohio Veteran's Exemption Payment Act" with Reps. Erica Crawley (D—Columbus) and Nino Vitale (R—Urbana)
- Co-Sponsoring HB 19 "Exempting Feminine Hygiene Care From State Sales Tax" with Reps. Brigid Kelly (D—Cincinnati) and Niraj Antani (R—Miamisburg)
- Co-Sponsoring HB 34 "Modernizing our Minimum Wage" with Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati)
- Co-Sponsoring HB 65 "Daycare Parental Notification Bill" with Rep. Rick Carfagna (R—Genoa Township)
- Co-Sponsoring HB 91 "Paid Parental Leave Act" with Reps. Janine Boyd (D—Cleveland Heights) and Kristin Boggs (D—Columbus)