

# Statehouse News

*From the Office of Representative Allison Russo*



## A Note from Representative Russo

It's officially summer in Ohio, which means more time in the district for community events and outreach! As many of you begin this month with 4th of July celebrations with your family and friends, I hope you are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation throughout the summer. At the Statehouse, we still have unfinished work on the state budget (more information in the Issue Spotlight) before we can officially take our summer break. However, I am looking forward to talking with constituents at upcoming Statehouse at Home events in July, and many of the Franklin County Members will be joining me at special Town Hall events in August to talk about the state budget and our work in the General Assembly. Watch for more announcements on dates and locations for these events.

I want you to know that as your state representative, I work for you. Know that I am always happy to listen to the issues that matter to you and work to ensure all our families are able to live the American Dream at home, right here in Ohio!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Russo".

## Look Back: June 2019

Rep. Russo began this month introducing her first major piece of legislation "Madeline's Law" at a statewide press conference. "Madeline's Law", or H.B. 243, expands health insurance coverage for hearing aids in children. Believe it or not, hearing aids are often considered cosmetic by many insurance companies, and insured parents of deaf and hard of hearing children often spend thousands of dollars out-of-pocket to ensure their children have these necessary devices. "Madeline's Law" has been referred to the Health Committee for further discussion and consideration, and Rep. Russo encourages you to reach out to Health Committee Members to communicate your support for this important legislation.



Rep. Russo was also proud to celebrate LGBTQ Pride month at the Stonewall Columbus Parade with many of her Franklin County colleagues. Pride month was a wonderful celebration of the diversity and inclusion that makes Ohio strong. Rep. Russo believes everyone deserves to have their voices heard no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, and she encourages your continued support of the "Ohio Fairness Act" (S.B. 11).

When not working on the budget and other legislation in

Committee, Rep. Russo was also proud to join the newly formed Mental Health Caucus. As the Co-Chair of the Children's Caucus, she also hosted many advocacy groups and Members for a thoughtful discussion of children's policy priorities for this General Assembly. Additionally, Rep. Russo had the pleasure of hosting many local groups and District 24 residents for the presentation of House Resolutions and Commendations honoring their achievements.



## Commendations and Condolences from Rep. Allison Russo

Congratulations to Prairie Township for recently celebrating their bicentennial, as well as to their fire department, which celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Congratulations to Dr. Rattan Lal, who received the 2019 Japan Prize for advancing the study of soil science around the world and pioneering the area of no-till farming. Dr. Lal donated all \$450,000 of his prize money to the Ohio State University.

Congratulations to Thomas Bainbridge on his retirement as Chairman of the Ohio Industrial Commission. Thank you for your commitment to helping Ohio's workers!

Condolences to the family and friends of Jeannie "Dusky" Reider upon her death. We all mourn this tremendous loss to our community.

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## Issue Spotlight: State Budget

### Lawmakers forced to pass short-term budget to avoid GOP government shutdown

As Republican lawmakers remained deadlocked on a long-term state budget deal late last month, House Democrats voted in favor of Senate Bill (SB) 171, a bill to extend state funding for 17 days, as well as SB 172, a 30-day funding extension for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Failure to pass the two bills would have resulted in a state government shutdown beginning July 1.

In the negotiations, Democrats remain committed to maintaining critical tax fairness provisions, funding for public schools, the integrity of the Medicaid program, and recognition of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as an eligible condition for first responders' workers compensation.

As elected officials, we made a promise on day one to uphold the constitution—the same constitution that requires us to pass a fiscally responsible budget by July 1. We should not have to operate on interim budgets. Ohio families like yours cannot afford more uncertainty.

My Democratic colleagues and I remain committed to keeping our promise to Ohio taxpayers—that we work for you. We're ready to work together to uphold our constitutional duty and pass a long-term budget that invests in Ohio's future and delivers results for working people and families.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Independence Day Celebrations

July 4, All-Day; Clintonville, Hilliard, Upper Arlington

#### UA Alumni Day

July 6, 1:00-4:00pm; UA High School

#### Summer Celebration

July 11, 6:00pm-8:00pm; Thompson Park

#### Franklin County Fair

July 19, 6:00-8:00pm; Franklin County Fairgrounds

#### Ohio State Fair

July 25, 1:00-5:00pm; Ohio Expo Center & State Fair

#### "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

July 21, 3:30-5:00pm; Tremont Library, Room A

#### Hilliard Office Hours

July 22, 5:30-7:00pm; Hilliard Library, Room 2A

### Legislative Agenda

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

Introducing HB 287 "Reciprocity for Military Family Member Earned Priority for Medicaid HCBS Waivers" with Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek)

Introducing "Capping Filing Fees for CQE Petitions" with Rep. Erica Crawley (D-Columbus)

Co-Sponsoring HB 205 "Fair School Funding Plan" with Rep. Robert Cupp (R- Lima) and Rep. John Patterson (R-Jefferson)

Co-Sponsoring HB 203 "Requirements for Mobile Dental Facility Operations" with Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin)

Co-Sponsoring HB 265 "Create Dementia Care Certificate" with Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland)