



A Legislative Report from Rep. Barbara Boyd

9th District of Ohio • Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, University Heights and Parts of Cleveland



Barbara Boyd
State Representative

Dear Constituents,

As a State Representative, it has always been my belief that in order to have responsible state government, the representatives must listen to those that elected them, the citizens of Ohio.

That is why we will be hosting a variety of events for the people of my district to give feedback. There was a commencement cookout on June 26th for all those who completed the momentous step in their lives of graduating college. We will host a luncheon on July 25th for community leaders, details will be forthcoming.

Over the last four years, Ohioans have seen a 16.8 percent reduction in their state income taxes. Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council certified Ohio best in the Midwest and 11th nationally for small businesses. Ohio is now just one of two states that do not tax a business' personal property or its corporation profits. Additionally, Ohio's seniors have seen the largest property tax cut in Ohio history as a result of the expansion of the Homestead Property Tax Exemption.

In the House, we have passed a series of job-creating initiatives, such as the Venture Capital Fund, Rapid Outreach Grants, the Technology Investment Tax Credit, the Ohio Loan Fund and the Job Creation / Job Retention Tax Credit. We also created a series of new initiatives like the Sporting Events Incentive Grant, the New Markets Tax Credit and the Film Tax Credit, which has already created \$25 million in economic activity and 3,000 new jobs in Ohio.

I am also pleased that Ohio voters in May agreed to expand and extend the proven, job-creating Ohio Third Frontier Program. Third Frontier is a high-tech jobs program that invests in growing industries like advanced energy, transportation and logistics. It has provided a ten to one return on investment for taxpayers, and it created over 48,000 new jobs.

In addition, we have modernized Ohio's telecommunications laws and passed a Common-Sense Regulatory Reform Act to reduce over-burdensome rules and help small businesses.

I will continue my strong support for ways to strengthen Ohio's economy including further job-creation initiatives because we know these efforts are key to ensuring a brighter future for our families, our businesses and our state.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me. I always welcome your thoughts, concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

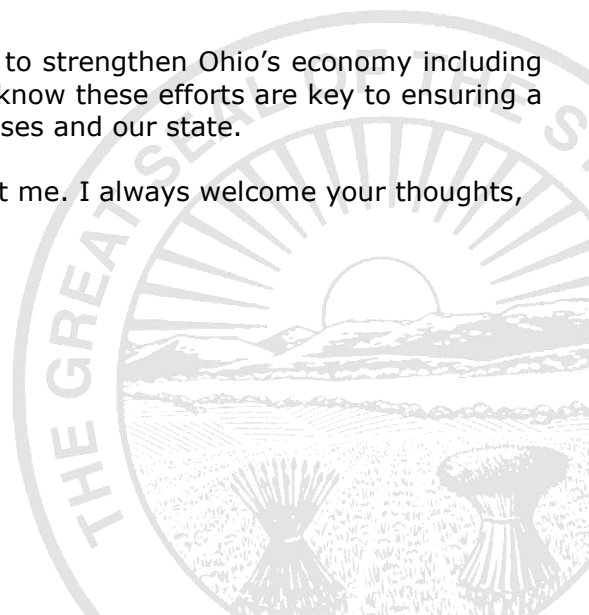
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Search Underway for Ohio Veterans

State says Many Vets Aren't Collecting Benefits They've Earned

If you are a veteran, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) is searching for you. You may be eligible for benefits and not even know it.

So, ODVS is reaching out with two simple messages:

- Anyone who wears or has ever worn a U.S. military uniform is a Veteran," and
- "Your service may be worth more than you think."

The department is asking Veterans to call 1-877-OHIO-VET to get connected to their County Veterans Service Office and their benefits. If you know veterans, please pass this number along to them.

These benefits may enable a Veteran to pay for higher education, purchase a new home or get help treating a medical condition. Ohio Veterans are eligible for these and a multitude of other benefits.

The department's number one priority is identifying our Veterans, so they can get the benefits they have earned.

We don't know where they are, but we know where they've been.

If you are one of the more than 900,000 Ohioans who wears or has worn a U.S. military uniform, your service may be worth more than you think. Call 1-877-OHIO-VET to get connected to your benefits.



House Health Committee Promotes Kid's Health

Chair Barbara Boyd Leads Committee Work on Important Legislation

Children are our future, and I have taken the initiative in ensuring that they will eat healthy in order to have a healthier chance of being productive citizens. By passing Senate Bill 210 in Ohio's Health Committee, I am proud to have served as Chairwoman to such an important piece of legislation.

I helped ensure that students will participate in 30 minutes of physical activity daily in schools. The bill also provides for tracking of nutritional and wellness success in students' report cards. The initial feedback from the bill has been overwhelmingly positive, it has attracted bipartisan support in both the House and Senate with leadership from Senators Kearney and Coughlin and Representatives Carney, Watchmann and myself.

Along with Representatives Lehner and Harwood, I have introduced House Bill 460, known as the Home Care Bill, which will protect the growing number of our state's diverse home care patients who reside at home by ensuring that those that take care of them are properly licensed.

All too often we read reports of our loved ones being

taken advantage of. With the passage of House Bill 460 this will no longer be the case in the State of Ohio. House Bill 460 will be having its first hearing in Health Committee this summer.

I greeted the news of Sean Levert's passing with grief. To ensure that no other family will be afflicted with such a preventable death, I am heavily pursuing the passage of HB 84 which will require the thorough screening of new inmates by health-trained personnel.

The provisions of the bill are as follows. When a prisoner arrives at the jail, a doctor who knows his or her job will screen the prisoners within 24 hours. He or she will ask the prisoners about their use of alcohol or drugs in order to get a clear picture of the prisoner's mental and physical condition. The prisoners will also meet with a competent psychiatrist, who will evaluate them professionally and help them while in jail.

All of these safety precautions will hopefully ensure that no father or mother is ever torn again from life's loving grasp and into death's cold embrace.

Ohio House Takes Action Against Domestic Violence

Legislation to Protect Victims and Punish Offenders

Thirty-three. The percentage of teens who say they know someone who has been hit, punched, kicked, or otherwise physically hurt by their partner.¹ 69,470. The number of domestic violence calls made to Ohio police in 2009.²

These numbers are most definitely lower than the actual number of cases of teen dating and domestic violence that occur in our state each year because many cases go unreported.

Teen dating and domestic violence affect women and men of all ages, races, and socioeconomic standings. Given how serious this violence is, how often it occurs, and the number of people affected, members of the House are working to provide victims with more ways to protect themselves.

Governor Strickland has already signed two bills into law.

The first fixes a deadly gap in Ohio law. Previously, young people under age 18 could not always go to court to get a protection order against someone they have dated. This new law allows victims to seek a protective order from Juvenile Court against a minor who has threatened or abused them. It also gives victims' guardians the ability to get the order on their behalf.

The second new law ensures that every public school in Ohio teaches students about teen dating violence by requiring it to be included in health curriculum. Helping teens recognize the signs of abuse and making them aware of the resources available to them is an essential first step in reducing the impact of teen dating

violence. House Bill 167 would prevent employers and landlords from discriminating against victims of domestic violence. It would prohibit employers from knowingly firing or refusing to hire someone because of their status as a victim and would provide a number of other workplace protections. It would also prevent property owners from terminating a lease because the tenant is a domestic violence victim. Renters can also terminate their lease without penalty if they become a victim of domestic violence.

House Bill 391 protects the addresses of domestic violence victims while still allowing them the constitutional right to vote. Typically, registered voters' addresses are a matter of public record. But this can be particularly dangerous for victims who are at risk of being harmed again. The bill establishes an address confidentiality program administered by the Secretary of State's office.

Finally, House Bill 429 increases the penalties for domestic abuse. It would form fatality-review boards to examine the circumstances surrounding homicides involving domestic violence to determine where the system failed. It would also require the offender to attend a batterer intervention program and meet with the sentencing judge periodically to discuss progress.

The health and safety of Ohioans is very important. These bills are part of our pledge at the Statehouse to take action on an issue that affects too many citizens.



Adapted from:
DOMESTIC AND INTERVENTION PROJECT
www.duluth-model.org

Ohio Domestic Violence Resources

Action Ohio Coalition
For Battered Women
5900 Roche Dr.
Columbus, OH 43229
(614) 825-0551
www.actionohio.org

Ohio Domestic
Violence Network
4807 Evanswood Dr.
Columbus, OH 43229
(614) 781-9651
www.odvn.org

¹ Liz Claiborne Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2009.
² Ohio Attorney General's 2009 Domestic Violence Reports.

Legislation Addresses New Technology Issues

Common-sense laws would protect Ohioans in the technology age

New advances in technology put the world at our fingertips with the press of a button. While there are many advantages to being in constant contact with one another, some new, potentially damaging issues have arisen. The Ohio House of Representatives has responded with common-sense legislation that protects Ohioans.

Texting while driving



Photo courtesy
AAA Foundation

Texting while driving is a dangerous distraction that puts drivers, passengers, other motorists and pedestrians at great risk. Studies show that drivers are 20 times more likely to crash or a nearly crash if they are texting or receiving

text messages while driving.

The National Transportation Safety Administration has reported the reaction time of texting drivers to be 35% slower than it is for marijuana smokers and 12% slower than it is for drunken drivers.

To ensure on the road, the Ohio House passed legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense. It would be a minor misdemeanor, and offenders would receive a fine of up to \$150. The law would still allow drivers to use text messaging but only if their vehicle is pulled off the road and at a standstill.

Sexting

Smart phones and social networking sites make sharing photos simple and fun. However, many teens have begun to use this technology to share sexually explicit photos and videos of themselves.



This practice, known as sexting, has become widespread among youth and has potentially damaging consequences. While these images are most often directed to a boyfriend or girlfriend, it is not uncommon for this material to be shared with others.

According to a National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy survey, 33% of respondents have shared nude or semi-nude images, and almost 40% of the young

adults have had sexually suggestive material meant for someone else shared with them.

House Bill 473, which applies only to minors, classifies sending a nude photo of oneself as an unruly act and sending a photo of another a misdemeanor.

Cyberbullying

Schoolyard bullies have a new way of targeting kids that allows them to follow their victims wherever they take their cell phones or use the Internet.



Cyberbullying is the practice of one child harassing, threatening or intimidating another child using interactive technology.

The National Association of School Psychologists reports that cyberbullying victims have increased rates of depression, suicidal ideation and poor academic achievement. They are also eight times more likely to bring weapons to school.

Courts have consistently ruled that schools have a right and responsibility to regulate conduct that negatively affects their learning environment. House Bill 520 outlines a more comprehensive definition of bullying, requires schools to provide anti-cyberbullying training as part of their already mandated anti-bullying training and allows schools to discipline kids who cyberbully off school grounds or away from school sponsored events.

New issues arise with new technology, but responsible action today will help keep Ohioans safe.

Technology Concerns

- Drivers who text are 20 times more likely to get in crash or near crash.
- 33% of teens in a recent survey have shared nude or semi-nude photos of themselves with others over text message or the Internet.
- Kids who are cyberbullied are 8 times more likely to bring a gun to school.