



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,

One of our most important challenges is to provide for Ohio's economic future, and that means jobs. Helping create new jobs is our top priority.

That's why I have joined with business leaders across the state to support renewing and expanding the Ohio Third Frontier Program.

The Third Frontier Program has created thousands of Ohio jobs and jump started high-growth industries such as the biomedical, advanced materials and alternative energy sectors. We cannot risk slowing the positive economic growth that this successful program has generated.

The Ohio Third Frontier Program began in 2002 with bipartisan support and voter approval. It is a 10 year, \$1.6 billion bond program that allows for targeted support of technology companies that diversify and accelerate Ohio's knowledge-based economy.

Ohio's future economic prosperity depends on our ability to shift from traditional manufacturing industries to the high-growth, technology-intensive industries of tomorrow. The Third Frontier not only accelerates our economic transition, it also creates good-paying jobs for Ohioans.

According to an independent evaluation conducted by Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International, the Ohio Third Frontier program has already created 41,300 jobs over the past seven years with over \$2.4 billion in employee wages and benefits. The report also showed that taxpayers were seeing more than a 10 to one return on investment and from 2003 to 2008 an investment of \$681 million of state expenditures resulted in over \$6.6 billion of statewide economic impact.

I hope we can continue this important program and expand it's efforts to help move Ohio forward during difficult economic times.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boyd
State Representative



CONTACT

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Or E-mail At:
district09@ohr.state.oh.us

How To Contact Representative Barbara Boyd

You have several options if you would like to contact Representative Boyd. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions and will do everything we can to help you. We also welcome invitations to speak to your group or organization.



Via Telephone (Columbus Office)

Direct Phone: (614) 644-5079

Toll-Free Messaging System:
(800) 282-0253

Direct Fax: (614) 719-0009

District Phone/Fax Line:
(216) 371-3888



Via Electronic Mail (E-Mail)

To contact the office via e-mail,
please use the following address:
district09@ohr.state.oh.us

Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)



Hon. Barbara Boyd
State Representative, 9th District
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Help is Available to Prevent Foreclosures

Important Contact Numbers to Save

Foreclosures are a devastating threat to our families and our communities. You work hard and make sacrifices to achieve the American Dream of homeownership. But the unexpected—job loss, death of a spouse, illness, divorce, or rising mortgage payments—can threaten that dream. There is help available, however. Below are some phone numbers of groups and organizations that may be able to help you.

United Way Services First Call For Help 216-436-2000 or 2-1-1

Foreclosure Prevention Program of Cuyahoga County 216-443-8182

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland 216-458-4663

ESOP, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People 216-361-0718

Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Cleveland 216-378-9042

Minneapolis-based Homeowners Preservation Foundation 1-888-9954673

Housing Advocated Emergency Assistance 216-431-7400

Community Housing Solutions 216-231-5815

Court of Common Pleas Foreclosure Mediation Program 216-443-8726

Ohio's Save the Dream Hotline 1-888-404-4674



SAVE THE
dream
OHIO'S FORECLOSURE
PREVENTION EFFORT

IMPORTANT TIP:

Contact your mortgage loan servicer at the first sign that you may have difficulty in making your mortgage payment. Explain your circumstances and ask to participate in a workout resolution. Even if the foreclosure process has started, it is not too late to reach out to your servicer.

More Money for HEAP This Winter

New Guidelines Mean More Homes Will Be Heated



More Ohioans will be able to get help paying their heating bills this winter. The Ohio

Department of Development has increased the income level guidelines so that more people will be eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Households are eligible for HEAP assistance if their income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, an increase from the previous level of 175 percent. This means the program will help heat more homes this winter.

The state is expecting to have approximately \$220 million in Home Energy Assistance Program

funds this winter to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the cost of home energy bills. The Program, administered by the Department's Office of Community Services, pays a one-time payment for the current winter heating season. Households with elderly or disabled members may qualify for a larger amount of assistance.

A special component of HEAP, the Winter Crisis Program, is administered by Community Action agencies throughout Ohio. The Winter Crisis Program provides assistance once per heating season to eligible households that are disconnected, threatened with disconnection, or have less than a 10 day supply of bulk fuel.

For more information about HEAP or to apply for assistance, call the toll free HEAP hotline at 1-800-282-0880, Monday through Friday or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Ohio Extends Unemployment Compensation

Those Enrolled Full-Time In Education or Training Programs Now Eligible

The Ohio House has taken great strides this past year to enhance Ohio's education system in order to secure prosperity for our state both today and tomorrow.

In a further show of support of education, Governor Strickland has announced a state program that extends unemployment compensation benefits to all students enrolled in full-time education or training programs. Previously, only those students enrolled in certain education or training programs were exempt from the program's work-search requirement. This requirement states that those applying for unemployment compensation declare they are "able, available and actively seeking work."

The benefits expansion makes going back to school an option for those who were not previously considering it because it was out of their reach financially.



"To build a robust economy from the ground up, Ohio's working people must have every opportunity to get the education and training they need to land the new kinds of jobs our economy is creating," Governor Strickland said. "This policy change will help those Ohioans hardest hit by the recession to obtain job training skills without sacrificing their ability to continue providing for their families."

The Obama Administration is also looking to ease the financial burden of those looking to go back to school. Under current provisions, those getting unemployment compensation can receive special consideration for financial aid to pay for education or job training programs.

To find out more about applying for unemployment compensation, visit the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services at www.jfs.ohio.gov or call 1-877-644-6562.

Childhood Obesity a Serious Health Problem in Ohio

Two Bills in the Ohio House Would Promote Healthier Lifestyles for Kids

It's not your imagination. Kids these days do weigh more, and obesity in young people has become a serious problem.

Around 30 percent of Ohio's children are obese, which increases the likelihood of Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and other health problems. Ohio is one of the worst ranking states in school nutrition according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Two bills are being considered in the Ohio House to deal with this significant health issue.

The Healthy Choices for Healthy Children legislation (HB 373) includes school-based initiatives that will increase physical activity, raise the bar for physical education and improve the nutritional value of foods offered during the regular and expanded school day.

The Problem is Getting Worse

- Childhood obesity has tripled in the past generation
- Most overweight adolescents have at least one cardiovascular risk factor (high cholesterol, diabetes or high blood pressure)
- Most overweight young people become overweight adults
- The percentage of people more than 100 pounds overweight has quadrupled from one in 200 to one in 50 between 1986 and 2000.
- Obese patients spend 36% more on health care services and 77% more on medications

Source: Ohio State Medical Association

The bill also provides for Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings upon school entry and in 3rd, 5th and 9th grades. Schools would teach parents about their child's BMI and the health risks associated the results.

The goal is to get parents and kids thinking about making healthy lifestyle choices. The tools in this bill will help parents identify and deal with problems before serious health issues come up. The earlier young people start healthy habits, the better for their health and less expensive it will be for everyone in the long run.

A second bill (HB 60) requires snacks sold in public school vending machines to meet certain nutritional standards.

The bill would limit drinks to milk, water and juice products, with some alternative beverages such as low calorie sodas permitted at the high school level. It also limits the fat, sugar, sodium and caloric content in snacks.

The standards in House Bill 60 are based on guidelines set forth by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, the American Heart Association, as well as many businesses, including Pepsi and Mars.

Medical experts say childhood obesity is one of the biggest public health issues confronting Ohio. By taking the steps outlined in these two bills, plus a greater awareness of the need for kids to be more active and eat better, we can prevent today's young people from being the first generation of Ohioans to have shorter lives than their parents.



1 in 3 Ohio children are overweight/obese

Ohio is the 15th fattest state for children

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association



Top State Leaders Visit 9th Ohio House District

Health and Education Leaders Join Rep. Boyd to Meet with Constituents



*Ohio Department of Health
Director Dr. Alvin Jackson*

District 9 was privileged to host two prominent leaders from our state a week apart in the month of December. Amidst all of the holiday plans and time spent with the family, local leaders and members of the community took time out of their evening to attend events with the Department of Health and the Director, Dr. Alvin Jackson; and with

the Department of Education and State Superintendent Deb Delisle.

On December 10, at the CEOGC's (The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland) Head Start location located on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland Heights, Dr. Alvin Jackson (Director of Ohio's Department of Health) gave a presentation on

health disparities pertinent to the surrounding communities and also about the current concerns of this flu season and the H1N1 pandemic. Dr. Jackson gave helpful hints about staying healthy and urged the audience to get the H1N1 vaccine when it is available to their specific tier group. He also emphasized the importance of eating healthy and that 63% of adults in Ohio are overweight or obese.

On December 17, at the Cleveland Heights Community Center located on Monticello Boulevard, State Superintendent Deb Delisle spoke on her transition from superintendent of Cleveland Heights & University Heights Schools to State Superintendent. She mentioned key issues like involvement of parents and the community in shaping each child's opportunity to a great education.



*State Superintendent of
Public Instruction Deb
Delisle*

Renew Your Ohio Drivers License on Time

New Ohio License Plates Now Available

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles now charges a late fee of \$20 for all drivers license and vehicle registration renewals if you are more than seven days beyond the expiration date. Avoid the fine by renewing on time!

Meanwhile, perhaps you've seen the new "Beautiful Ohio" license plate now available. It is being sold by the BMV in addition to Ohio's standard issue "Sunburst" red, white and blue plate.

The plates cost \$7.50, in addition to other applicable fees that apply when purchasing new or replacement plates.

The release of the Beautiful Ohio plate is not a mandatory replacement for Ohio BMV customers. It is an option for those with current registrations to replace their current plates with the Beautiful Ohio design, while new registrations will have the option of choosing the state's standard "Sunburst" design or the Beautiful Ohio design.



The new Beautiful Ohio license plate--right

House Approves Bills to Expand Insurance Coverage

Legislation Extends Insurance Coverage to Help Families Dealing with Autism and Diabetes

Insurance companies that provide basic health coverage will be required to offer some benefits to individuals and families with autism and diabetes under two bills recently approved by the Ohio House of Representatives.

Under current Ohio law, insurance companies can exclude coverage specifically for these conditions. These bills would help families manage the high costs that accompany the diagnosis and treatment of autism and diabetes.

House Bill 8– Autism

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, one in 91 children (one in 58 boys) born today will be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). ASD is more common than all types of pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined, making it a real concern for Ohioans.

ASD is a complex, lifelong disorder that affects the brain and nervous system. Children with ASD can have difficulty with communication and social and behavioral functions. While it can be devastating to a family, it is treatable.

House Bill 8 ensures that insurance companies offer their policyholders access to screening and diagnostic devices. It also provides for treatments that medical professionals prescribe, including:

- Professional Counseling
- Treatment Programs
- Psychiatric & Psychological Care
- Speech & Physical Therapy
- Pharmacy Care, if the policy has a prescription drug service



House Bill 81– Diabetes

Diabetes affects an estimated 380,000 Ohioans and costs the state \$6-billion each year, a number experts expect to rise.

House Bill 81 would require coverage for the essential equipment, supplies, and medication for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diabetes. It would also cover diabetes self-management education and medical nutrition therapy. These services include everything from a focus on determining patients' diabetic needs and educating them about the disease to creating nutrition and management goals and tracking progress over time.

The bill should ultimately save money because insurers will pay for less costly maintenance programs now rather than for expensive procedures later.

HB 81 will put Ohio on par with the forty-six other states that currently require insurers to cover diabetes-associated costs.



Both bills include a provision that would give healthcare providers the ability to opt out of this coverage if their rates increase by 1% due to the new requirements. Ohio would be the first state to include this option. It is an added protection for business and industry.

House Bills 8 and 81 help both families and businesses by balancing access to quality healthcare with affordability.