Disability Rights OHIO

Ohio State Representatives You Should Know

It is always a good idea to talk to the legislators who represent you. You can find that out here: **https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/**

But it is also a good idea to write letters, schedule meetings, and make calls to legislators who have power in the areas important to you.

Right now, it is important to focus on representatives in the House Finance Committee as we enter budget season. Since the House has committees similar to the Senate, it is important to focus on the following Committees: Children and Human Services, Health, Medicaid, and Education.

For each representative, we included:

- Their party: democrat or republican
- Their district: the part of Ohio they represent
- Relevant committees and positions: the topics they focus on in the legislature that relate to our key issues
- Contact information
- Biographical information: When meeting with legislators, it is important to build a relationship. One way to build a relationship is to bring up something you both care about! For example, you might both be huge Ohio State football fans!

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House Children and Human Services Committee

Representative Andrea White



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, Kettering
  - District 36

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-644-6008
  - E: rep36@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Children & Human Services Committee, Chair
  - Energy Committee
  - Finance Committee
  - Health Committee

- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative White's second term as a state representative
  - She served as Clerk of Court for Kettering Municipal Court from 2004 until elected to the House. She worked on criminal justice issues locally and statewide.
  - She owned a small business providing communications and process improvement for small businesses, arts, healthcare, and other non-profit organizations for over 15 years.
  - She graduated from Wright State University.

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Representative Jodi Salvo



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, Zoar
  - District 51

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-466-8035
  - E: rep51@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Children & Human Services Committee, Vice Chair
  - Community Revitalization Committee
  - Energy Committee
  - Natural Resources Committee

- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative Salvo's first term as state representative
  - She served as the Director of Substance Use Prevention Services at OhioGuidestone, a behavior health organization in Ohio.
  - She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from California University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Marywood University.

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Representative Crystal Lett



❖ Party and District:

- Democrat, Hilliard
- District 11

❖ Contact Information:

- P: 614-644-6030
- E: rep11@ohiohouse.gov

❖ Relevant Committees/Positions:

- Children & Human Services Committee, Ranking Minority Member
- Medicaid Committee
- Small Business Committee

❖ Biographic Information:

- This is Representative Lett's first term as state representative.
- She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Ohio State University.
- She's worked previously as a case manager at North Central Mental Health, a Client Services Manager at Research Management, Inc., and Manager of Psychological Practice.
- She was inspired to work with children who have mental illnesses after becoming an advocate for her brother.

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House Education Committee

Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur



❖ Party and District:

- Republican, Ashtabula
- District 99

❖ Contact Information:

- P: 614-466-1405
- E: rep99@ohiohouse.gov

❖ Relevant Committees/Positions:

- Education Committee, Chair
- Children & Human Services Committee
- Community Revitalization Committee
- Local Government Committee

❖ Biographic Information:

- This is Representative Fowler Arthur's second term as a state representative.
- She was the first homeschool graduate in the nation to be elected to a State Board of Education.
- She began her first business at age 11 called Sarah's Eggs.

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Representative Mike Odioso



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, Cincinnati
  - District 30

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-466-8258
  - E: rep30@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Education Committee, Vice Chair
  - Children & Human Services Committee
  - Energy Committee
  - Judiciary Committee

- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative Odioso's first term as state representative.
  - Representative Mike is recognized as a leading high school educator with a deep background in law.
  - He returned to public life after raising his daughter, Audrey Marie Odioso, who was born with developmental disabilities.

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Representative Phillip Robinson, Jr.



- **Party and District:**
  - Democrat, Solon
  - District 19

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-644-6041
  - E: rep19@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Education Committee, Ranking Minority Member
  - Finance Committee
  - Financial Institutions Committee

- **Biographic Information:**
  - Representative Robinson graduated from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. with an undergraduate degree in finance.
  - He served as a congressional aide for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).
  - He served as Executive Director of City Year Cleveland, an education nonprofit that partners with public schools to help keep students in school and on track to graduate.
  - He currently serves as the Chief Impact Officer for Reading Partners, a national nonprofit that works with communities to provide students with individual reading support.

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House Health Committee

Representative Jean Schmidt



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, Loveland
  - District 62
- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-466-8134
  - E: rep62@ohiohouse.gov
- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Health Committee, Chair
  - Financial Institutions Committee
  - Local Government Committee
- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative Schmidt's third term as a state representative.
  - Her advocacy interests have included helping survivors of domestic violence, protecting children, and helping victims of the drug crisis.
  - Representative Schmidt was instrumental in creating the Miami Township Park System, the largest local government park system in Clermont County.

Representative Kellie Deeter



❖ Party and District:

- Republican, Norwalk
- District 54

❖ Contact Information:

- P: 614-466-9268
- E: rep54@ohiohouse.gov

❖ Relevant Committees/Positions:

- Health Committee, Vice Chair
- Arts, Athletics, & Tourism Committee
- Children & Human Services Committee
- Finance Committee
- Insurance Committee

❖ Biographic Information:

- This is Representative Deeter's first term as a state representative.
- She has a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Marysville University of St. Louis, a master's degree from the University of Akron, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bowling Green State University (BGSU).
- She is certified as a Nurse Anesthetist and a Nurse Practitioner.

Representative Anita Somani



❖ Party and District:

- Democrat, Columbus
- District 8

❖ Contact Information:

- P: 614-466-5358
- E: rep08@ohiohouse.gov

❖ Relevant Committees/Positions:

- Health Committee, Ranking Minority Member
- Medicaid Committee

❖ Biographic Information:

- This is Representative Somani's first term as a state representative.
- For the last 32 years, she has worked in Columbus as a healthcare professional, currently as an OBGYN.
- As a legislator and physician, she has used her medical background to work on issues related to public health and introduced health related bills.
- She is a first generation immigrant from India and her father was the first Asian to serve in a Governor's cabinet.

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House Medicaid Committee

Representative Jennifer Gross



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, West Chester
  - District 45

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-466-8550
  - E: rep45@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Medicaid Committee, Chair
  - Community Revitalization Committee
  - Government Oversight Committee
  - Health Committee
  - Joint Medicaid Oversight **Committee**

- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative Gross's third term as a state representative.
  - She is a 21-year Air Force veteran and retired Lt. Colonel, who served in Saudi Arabia during Operation Provide Comfort and in Sarajevo during Operation Provide Promise.
  - She has been a Family Nurse Practitioner for 20 years and a registered nurse for 35 years.

Representative Tim Barhorst



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, Fort Loramie
  - District 85

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-466-1507
  - E: rep85@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Medicaid Committee, Vice Chair
  - Agriculture Committee
  - Health Committee
  - Insurance Committee

- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative Barhorst's first term as a state representative.
  - He is a licensed Ohio Life and Health agent for almost 30 years.
  - He has served as the Legislative Chairman for the Ohio Association of Health Underwriters and Media Relations Chairman for the National Association of Health Underwriters Midwest Region.

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Representative Rachel Baker



❖ Party and District:

- Democrat, Cincinnati
- District 27

❖ Contact Information:

- P: 614-644-6886
- E: rep27@ohiohouse.gov

❖ Relevant Committees/Positions:

- Medicaid Committee, Ranking Minority Member
- Finance Committee
- Health Committee
- Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

❖ Biographic Information:

- This is Representative Baker's second term as a state representative.
- She is a nurse researcher that provides leadership and strategic planning related to a healthcare system's nursing evidence-based practice and research activities.
- She volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate providing support for children experiencing abuse and neglect.
- She is interested in improving social determinants of health, increasing access to quality healthcare, increasing support for mental health care, and increasing good-paying jobs for working families.

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House Finance Committee

Representative Brian Stewart



- **Party and District:**
  - Republican, Ashville
  - District 12

- **Contact Information:**
  - P: 614-466-1464
  - E: rep12@ohiohouse.gov

- **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
  - Finance Committee, Chair
  - Health Committee
  - Joint Legislative Ethics Committee
  - Judiciary Committee

- **Biographic Information:**
  - This is Representative Stewart's third term as a state representative.
  - He maintains a successful law practice representing businesses and individuals as the owner of The Law Office of Brian Stewart, LLC in Circleville.
  - He is an infantry veteran of the Iraq War and earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) in addition to twice receiving the Army Commendation Medal.

Representative Mike Dovilla



❖ **Party and District:**
- Republican, Berea
- District 17

❖ **Contact Information:**
- P: 614-466-4895
- E: rep17@ohiohouse.gov

❖ **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
- Finance Committee, Vice Chair
- Energy Committee
- Veterans & Military Development Committee
- Workforce & Higher Education Committee

❖ **Biographic Information:**
- Representative Dovilla previously served in the House from 2011 to 2016.
- He has served as a senior-level presidential appointee at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in the Trump and Bush Administrations.
- He is a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Representative Bride Rose Sweeney



❖ **Party and District:**
- Democrat, Cleveland
- District 16

❖ **Contact Information:**
- P: 614-466-3350
- E: rep16@ohiohouse.gov

❖ **Relevant Committees/Positions:**
- Finance Committee, Ranking Minority Member
- Insurance Committee

❖ **Biographic Information:**
- Representative Sweeney is serving her fourth term as a state representative.
- When she was elected in November 2018, she became the first woman to ever represent her district at the Statehouse and the youngest Democratic member of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly.
- She has passed 13 bills in six years. Some include legislation to ensure prompt pay of workers, protection for nurses being forced into excessive overtime, and a reform to make it easier for students to transfer college credits between schools.
- In 2022, she was recognized by the Ohio Election Officials Association as a leading voice for democracy and voting rights.