

FROM THE DESK OF REPRESENTATIVE JARRELLS | COMMUNITY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

Dear Neighbor,

The legislature is back in session, and lawmakers are hard at work on the state budget, our opportunity to create a fiscally sound blueprint for the next two years and beyond.

Budgets reflect our values. In this time of incredible uncertainty, we need to make clear our values—that Ohio's promise is opportunity, the chance at a better life, a better job and a brighter future.

House Democrats are committed to restoring that promise by advocating for a state budget that prioritizes coronavirus relief; investments in the health, safety and security like modernizing our outdated public health system and social safety nets; and fully funding our public schools.

Additionally, House Democrats are fighting for a state budget that:

- Maintains Medicaid access and services to all eligible Ohioans;
- Continues to fund critical school wraparound services to ensure all Ohio students succeed;
- Expands access to early childhood education opportunities and job training for Ohio workers;
- Invests in ways to ensure more Ohioans graduate on time and with less debt, including stable Ohio College Opportunity Grant funding;
- Protects Ohio waterways and our environment, and improve water quality, including investments in H2Ohio;
- Continues all planned highway maintenance, preservation and safety initiatives;
- Fixes Ohio tax law to restore fairness for low and middle income families, and award tax incentives to Ohio small businesses that create jobs;
- Expands broadband access to underserved areas of the state.

If you have thoughts about the budget process, please feel free to contact meme at Rep25@ohiohouse.gov or 614-466-5343.



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LEGISLATION



SPONSORED BILLS:

Rep. Jarrells introduced **House Bill 69** with joint sponsor, Representative Bridget Kelly. This legislation would increase Ohio's minimum wage to \$15 by 2027. Raising wages for working Ohioans will bring more economic security and stability to millions of Ohioans living paycheck to paycheck and boost the long-term health of the state's economy. **This legislation has been referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.**

Rep. Jarrells second bill introduced **was House Bill 114** this legislation designates Columbus' Poindexter Village as an official Ohio Historical Site. Named for James Preston Poindexter, a minister, civil rights advocate, and community leader, the Poindexter Village was dedicated in Oct. 1940 by President Franklin Roosevelt as one of the nation's first public housing projects. Poindexter Village played a significant role in Columbus' Black community in the 1940s and 50s, and the two remaining buildings will become a museum. Adding Poindexter Village to the Ohio History Connection's network of historic sites celebrates and honors the story of Black communities in the mid-20th century. <u>This legislation has been referred to the State and Local</u> <u>Government Committee.</u>

CO-SPONSORED BILLS:

One of the many bills Rep. Jarrells has co-sponsored and voted in favor of was **House Bill 2**, a long-held Democratic priority that would create the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program, specifically designed to bring broadband access to unserved residential households in both rural and urban areas of the state. Extending access to high speed internet for families in my district is an important factor for everyday life. <u>House Bill 2 is now being debated in the Ohio Senate.</u>

Another legislative priority co-sponsored by Rep. Jarrells and voted in favor of was **House Bill 74**, the state's two-year transportation budget. Democrats fought against the governor's proposed cuts to public transit funding in the bill, securing \$193.7 million over the next two years, double the governor's proposed investment. The bill also removes the governor's proposed hikes in vehicle registration and secures funding for public transit vouchers for victims of domestic violence who need assistance getting to court, medical appointments and school. We're expecting to send this bill to the governor's desk in a matter of days.

Lastly, a very important bill Rep. Jarrells co-sponsored was House Bill 208, known as the Ohio Fairness Act. This bipartisan legislation would protect LGBTQ+ Ohioans from discrimination in employment, housing and accommodations. This legislation has been referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

To review the full list of bills sponsored , co-sponsored, and voted on, please visit: <u>https://ohiohouse.gov/members/dontavius-l-jarrells</u>.