

A legislative update from
STATE REP. ANITA SOMANI
 HOUSE DISTRICT 11

@AnitaSomaniMD
 @RepAnitaSomaniMD
 @OHHouseDems

(614) 466-5358
 rep11@ohiohouse.gov



From the desk of Rep. Somani

Dear Neighbor,
 This month features Black Maternal Health Week and Minority Health Month.

The week of April 11-17 is Black Maternal Health Week. Black mothers are 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications compared to white women.

We know that as health care providers we need to do better to address implicit biases and to provide more opportunities for minority medical students and physicians. Systemic racism hurts all of us regardless of our race. The book, "**Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society**" by Arline Geronimus does a wonderful job of showing the connection between stress and health especially in marginalized communities.

National Minority Health Month is observed in April and focuses on the health disparities minority communities experience in the United States. Black men are more likely to die from cancer than Caucasian men, and Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than white women.

Social determinants of health such as poverty, unequal access to health care, lack of education, stigma and racism are underlying contributing factors. We must provide more linguistically and culturally appropriate health education as well as remove barriers to receiving healthcare. House Democrats will continue to support quality, equitable healthcare so that everyone, no matter their zip code, can succeed.

Sincerely,


Anita Somani MD
 State Representative
 Ohio House District 11

TAX DAY
 April 18, 2023

For federal taxes, visit [usa.gov/file-taxes](https://www.irs.gov/file-taxes)
 For state taxes, visit tax.ohio.gov

REP. ANITA SOMANI MD
 OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 11

Tuesday, April 18th is the last day to file your state and federal taxes. For **federal taxes**, visit: [usa.gov/file-taxes](https://www.irs.gov/file-taxes). For **state taxes**, visit: tax.ohio.gov.

Black Maternal Health Week
 April 11-17, 2023

Please join Ohio's BMHC

OHIO BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioBMHC/>

APRIL IS
MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

Ohio House Democrats

HJR 1 Update

HJR 1:
 What does HJR 1 Do?
 • Requires 60% of the vote to pass constitutional amendments
 • Silences the voices of Ohio voters when deciding what issues matter most

How is HJR1 moving through the house?
 • It received its first hearing recently in the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee
 • HJR 1 now awaits its second hearing in committee. You can watch the hearing recording at www.ohiochannel.gov.

Even if you don't support reproductive rights, this ballot amendment would mean that every time a citizen wanted to change the constitution it would require 60% to vote for it. In essence, the majority would control any constitutional changes in Ohio. Since 1912, when the voters passed a set of amendments to get rid of corruption, no amendment has hit the 60% threshold and most that have passed were in the 50-55% range. Ohioans have used this approach sparingly over the years.

Unfortunately, at the time of this newsletter the Republicans are using a discharge petition to force the bill to be voted on in Session. It eliminates the option for the Speaker to bring it up for a vote and is yet another attack on our democracy.

You can track these bills and sign up to be notified when committees meet by going to www.ohiohouse.gov/legislation. You can also come in to give testimony by filling out a witness form. We accept written testimony too but in person testimony is very powerful. Our office is willing and able to assist in submitting testimony for any of these bills.

HJR 1

Supporters of HJR 1 do not want your vote to count

It will take away our right to decide what issues matter most

HJR 1 is Undemocratic, Unfair, and Unpopular

Podcast of the Month: Prognosis Ohio



Every month, we will highlight a podcast that I have been featured on! These range from medical to political podcasts where you can stay informed on various issues and topics concerning Ohioans.

This month, I had the pleasure of talking with Dan Skinner on his podcast Prognosis Ohio. We discussed abortion and reproductive rights, the effects of anti-transgender legislation on patients, and the current assault on voting rights led by HJR 1. Prognosis Ohio is a great podcast to listen to in order to stay informed about Ohio politics! You can listen to the podcast here: www.prognosisohio.com/episodes/somani

Rep. Somani with Prognosis Ohio podcast host, Dan Skinner, after a productive conversation about Ohio politics

April Roundtable with Rep. Adam Miller

Representative Adam Miller and I will be hosting a roundtable on **Tuesday, April 18th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Hilliard Branch in Room 2A**. This event will feature a discussion with local Hilliard leaders and organizations. Please stop by to ask any questions or voice your opinions on bills making their way through the state legislature.

JOIN US:
 TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH
 4:30-6:30 PM

COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY
 HILLIARD BRANCH ROOM 2A
 4500 HICKORY CHASE WAY
 HILLIARD, OH 43026

REPRESENTATIVES ANITA SOMANI AND ADAM MILLER

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

- Meet local community leaders and organizations
- Ask questions and share your concerns

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT
 REP 11@OHIOHOUSE.GOV OR 614-466-5358

Out & About

This month, I have met with several local and state groups to continue discussing legislative priorities. As I continue to meet with local organizations, I would love to meet with constituents and see the good you are doing in the community. Please reach out to my office for any in district events you would like for me to attend.

- March meetings:
- Universal Health Aid Columbus
 - Ohio Nurses Association
 - Children's Defense Fund
 - Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio
 - MY Project USA
 - Public Partnership LLC
 - Ohio State Medical Association
 - Moms Demand Action
 - Miami University Students
 - Ohio Education Association
 - Vorys Advisors
 - OPAWL
 - AmeriHealth
 - Center for Disability Empowerment
 - PROSPER
 - Mid-Ohio Food Collective
 - ASIA Ohio



Rep. Somani at a fundraiser for MY Project USA in the district



Rep. Somani stopped by Trans Allies for Ohio's event to support the transgender and non-binary community



Rep. Somani meeting with students from Miami University to discuss all the professional and financial opportunities they offer



Rep. Somani meeting with members of the Ohio Education Association