

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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November 2023

*Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights, and
Cleveland's West Park Neighborhood!*

Dear District 14 Resident:

Back in 2018, when I was serving as President of Parma City Council, a tragedy struck the community. Police Chief Joseph Bobak informed me that a little boy who obtained his father's handgun accidentally killed himself. Needless to say, like many, I was very saddened by the incident and the councilman, school teacher, and father in me wanted to prevent this type of calamity from happening again on my watch.

As a result, I worked with Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck and Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis to design a free gun lock program. Since that time, we have worked with the National Sports Shooting Foundation's (NSSF) Project Child Safe program and the Parma Police Department to give away nearly 2,000 gun locks to residents.

Ever since joining the Ohio General Assembly in January, I have worked hard to seek ways to bring folks on both sides of various issues together. I am very happy to say that I have experienced much success, as most of the bills that I am working on are bipartisan in nature. I am especially proud of House Bill 186 (HB 186), which I introduced with Representative Darnell Brewer of Cleveland. HB 186 would exempt firearm safety devices, such as gun locks and safes, from sales tax. Many tell me that the bill is historic in the sense that it has brought folks on both sides of the gun debate together. In fact, gun control groups such as Moms Demand Action, Sandy Hook Promise, and Every Town for Gun Safety and gun advocacy groups like the National Rifle Association, the NSSF, and the Buckeye Firearms Association support our bill.

Our proposal addresses a critical aspect of public safety, responsible gun ownership, and the well-being of our communities. By making gun safety devices more affordable, we remove financial barriers for gun owners to secure their firearms properly. We know it will not solve every tragedy and we are not discussing the merits of gun ownership or gun policies. Instead, we are focusing on a common-sense approach to incentivize firearm owners to do so responsibly and safely, like I have since I obtained my first gun when I was a young man growing up on my grandma's farm.

Studies have consistently shown that gun safety devices, such as gun safes, trigger locks, and biometric access systems, play a crucial role in preventing accidental discharge, unauthorized access to firearms, and gun thefts. They provide a layer of security that can help keep firearms out of the wrong hands, particularly when it comes to protecting children and vulnerable individuals. Further, safer storage can prevent firearms from being stolen and ending up in the hands of criminals, contributing to crime rates and endangering our communities. Firearm safety devices are essential tools for responsible gun owners who prioritize the safety of their families and communities.

In closing, we can all do our part to prioritize the safety of our community, regardless of one's stance on the firearms debate. If you own them, please take steps to secure your weapons. If you would like a free gun lock, please contact my office. Together we can make a safer community. Best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Brennan

State Representative, District 14
77 South High Street, Columbus,
Ohio 43215

Website:

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State Rep. Brennan Announces Adaptive Mobility Bill Passes Committee Unanimously

COLUMBUS – State Reps. Sean Patrick Brennan (D-Parma) and Steve Demetriou (R-Bainbridge Twp) are pleased to report that House Bill (HB) 195, which would create an adaptive mobility vehicle dealer license, has been unanimously passed by the Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee.

“All too often, the public has the impression that everything in Columbus is about partisan bickering. As new members of the Ohio General Assembly, Representative Demetriou and I became fast friends and are excited that our bill which will assist the disabled community and promote economic growth in Ohio is on the move,” said Rep. Brennan.

“I appreciated working with Representative Brennan and a number of stakeholders from across the business community to ensure that disabled Ohioans’ access to vehicles that fit their needs won’t be disrupted,” said Rep. Demetriou.

Currently, Ohio law is silent on licensing dealers who purchase vehicles and retrofit them to serve the needs of the disabled community. That is, any dealer who purchases a new vehicle from a licensed new car dealer and retrofits it to include an electronic or mechanical lift that enables someone to enter a vehicle via wheelchair or scooter, a mechanical wheelchair ramp, a system that secures a wheelchair or scooter, among other adaptations, does not fit into the new or used vehicle dealer licensing categories.

The bipartisan bill, which has received support from adaptive mobility dealers, the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, will benefit Ohioans in multiple ways. First, clarifying current licensure law for adaptive mobility dealers will increase the credibility of these businesses in the eyes of customers. Further, this legislation will ensure that consumers are provided with all of the warranties and other consumer protections they are entitled to when purchasing an adapted mobility vehicle. As a result, the viability of adaptive mobility dealerships will improve and more players will enter the market, resulting in economic growth and job creation.

Reps. Brennan and Demetriou also say that this legislation supports low mobility Ohioans by providing them with peace of mind that the state of Ohio has given its blessing to a dealer. No longer will they have to wonder if the vehicle they are purchasing is truly safe, knowing that they are protected by the same warranties and protections provided to purchasers of vehicles from new or used licensed dealers. By eliminating this legal gray area, the sponsors are hoping that opportunities for growth can be unlocked in this niche industry.

You may watch Reps. Brennan and Demetriou present their bill on the Ohio Channel at

www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-house-commerce-and-labor-committee-6-13-2023

The bill now awaits a House floor vote.



Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Urges Action on Railroad Bridge Violations

COLUMBUS - **State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (D-Parma)** and the **Democratic Cuyahoga County Delegation** today sent a letter to the CEOs of CSX Transportation, Inc. and Norfolk Southern Corporation, requesting action regarding the maintenance and recent violations of railroad bridges in Cleveland the companies own.

“The city of Cleveland has issued 99 first-degree misdemeanor violations for the deteriorating condition of these railroad bridges, which have raised significant safety concerns for our constituents,” said **Rep. Brennan**. “I urge both CSX Transportation, Inc. and Norfolk Southern Corporation to conduct thorough inspections on all of their railroad bridges in Cleveland as soon as possible.”

The letter signed by **Rep. Brennan (D-Parma)**, **Rep. Sweeney (D-Westlake)**, **Rep. Skindell (D-Lakewood)**, **Rep. Dell’Aquila (D-Seven Hills)**, **Sen. Smith (D-Euclid)**, **Rep. Brewer (D-Cleveland)**, **Rep. Robinson (D-Solon)**, **Rep. Upchurch (D-Cleveland)**, **Rep. Forhan (D-South Euclid)**, and **Sen. Antonio (D-Lakewood)** asks CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Corporation to address these violations and improve bridge maintenance in Cleveland, as well as, maintain transparent communication with city officials and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regarding their progress.



Cuyahoga County Democrats

September 21, 2023

Joseph Hinrichs, CEO
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street, 15th Floor
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Alan Shaw, President & CEO
Norfolk Southern Corporation
650 West Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30308

RE: Request for Improved Maintenance and Response to Violations of Railroad Bridges in Cleveland

Dear CSX Transportation, Inc. & Norfolk Southern Corporation:

On behalf of myself and the Democratic Cuyahoga County Delegation, we write to express our serious concerns regarding the maintenance and recent violations of railroad bridges owned by CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Corporation in Cleveland.

The City of Cleveland has issued 99 first-degree misdemeanor violations for the deteriorating condition of these railroad bridges, which have raised significant safety concerns for our constituents. Violations include issues such as falling concrete, overgrown vegetation, graffiti, and more. The Norfolk Southern owned railroad bridge spanning Broadway Avenue near Harvard is of particular concern, as it poses hazards to both pedestrians and motorists.

We are aware of your commitment to safety and investments in bridge projects. However, the present condition of these bridges, as indicated by the violations, calls for

CEO Joseph Hinrichs
CEO Alan Shaw
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immediate action. Therefore, we request that you:

1. Conduct thorough inspections of all your railroad bridges in Cleveland to ensure Compliance with federal standards and safety regulations.
2. Coordinate with the Federal Government and Initiate prompt repairs and improvements to address violations issued by the city.
3. Maintain transparent communication with city officials and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regarding your progress in resolving these issues.
4. Collaborate with the city to establish a long-term maintenance plan for these railroad bridges.

We believe that your swift response to these concerns will enhance the safety and well-being of our community and demonstrate your commitment to being responsible corporate citizens. We look forward to your timely response outlining your action plan to address these violations and improve bridge maintenance in Cleveland.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety and prosperity of our city and its residents.

Sincerely,

Sean Patrick Brennan
State Representative
Ohio House District 14

Michael J. Skindell
State Representative
Ohio House District 13

Bride Rose Sweeney
State Representative
Ohio House District 16

Richard Dell'Aquila
State Representative
Ohio House District 15



Recently, I collaborated with the Ohio Channel to produce an information set of videos, entitled “*A Few Minutes with Rep. Brennan.*” The intention of the series is to educate residents on my work on your behalf, as well as to educate viewers about their state government. You can view them on my website at: ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan

State Representative Brennan in the Community



- 1: Congratulations to Rich Pilat of Parma's Pilat Insurance, Inc. on achieving 75 years!
- 2: Joined by Cuyahoga County Democratic Chair David Brock, Parma Heights Councilwoman Susan Durichko, UAW 1005 President Dan Schwartz, and Parma Ward 1 Councilwoman Monica Wilson to show our support of our UAW brothers and sisters.
- 3: Parma Ward 9 Councilman Robert Euerle, Shoshanna and Alleson Armstrong and I at the recent Trunk or Treat event in Parma.
- 4: Congratulating Pokrova Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church on achieving 50 years!
- 5: What an honor to join several of my Ohio House of Representatives colleagues in a recent meeting with the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters (OAPFF).
- 6: I was truly humbled to be given OAPFF President Jon Harvey's personal challenge coin recently. It is one of my prize possessions!
- 7: On a recent visit to Cuyahoga County Community College's Western Campus in Parma, I was given a personal tour of the Veterinary Technology program by faculty member Monica Bode.
- 8: I was impressed with the career technical programs I learned about on a recent visit to Old Brook High School.

State Rep. Brennan Responds to the Death of Congressman Ronald M. Mottl

One of the crosses to bear when you have served your community as long as I have is that you attend a lot of funerals. In my nearly three decades as a school teacher, two decades on Parma City Council, and now nearly a year as state representative, the number well into the hundreds.

Recently, we experienced the loss of a Parma icon—Congressman Ronald M. Mottl. Congressman Mottl and I had been friends for many years. He was a great role model (or, as I like to say, “*role Mottl*”) and someone I would often seek out for advice. It has been an honor to follow his legacy as Parma Ward 2 Councilman, President of Parma City Council, and State Representative. Many of you know that he also served us in the Ohio Senate, Parma City School District Board of Education, as well as U.S. Congress. Clearly, his 33 years of service to the community is unmatched by anyone.



Although he had many accomplishments, the one that I always laud is that while serving in the Ohio General Assembly, Congressman Mottl championed the bill that led to the creation of the Ohio Lottery. As a result, many referred to him as the Father of the Ohio Lottery. Since its inception, the lottery has raised well over \$30 billion for public education in Ohio.

Congressman Mottl was the beloved husband of Debbie Mottl (nee Budan); Dear father of Ron Mottl Jr., Ron Mickey Mottl (Karen) Ronda Mottl (Daniel Compton) and Amanda Mottl; Cherished grandfather of Alexis, Samantha, Mickey and Mickayla, and friend to many.

To read more about Congressman Mottl, read the columns I wrote about him in the Parma Observer in 2019. You can find them at parmaobserver.com/download-issues/ - click on Volume 11, Issues 7 and 8. Rest in peace, my friend.



Cleveland Firefighters Local 93 Train State Rep. Brennan

Recently, I was invited by Cleveland Firefighters Local 93 President Fran Lally and his colleagues to take part in their educational boot camp. Needless to say, it was a very tiring day and I learned a lot about the hard work they do for us everyday. It was an honor to join them, as well as Cleveland Councilmen Kerry McCormack (Ward 3) and Charles Slife (Ward 17). A tip of the District 14 hat to all of the members of Local 93 for their service to the community!

PS: Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when we "fall back" this month!