

# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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April 2024

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

Dear District 14 Resident:

If you have been reading my monthly newsletter since I joined the Ohio General Assembly in January, 2023, you know that one of my top priorities is consumer protection, especially in the public utility space. As a member of the Ohio House of Representatives Public Utilities Committee, I am in a unique position to be a watchdog for consumers, like you, who pay a monthly gas and electric bill.

In fact, I ask a lot of tough questions in our committee and I am sponsor of H.B. 120 which would repeal parts of the corrupt H.B. 6, which we have all been reading and hearing about for months now. Currently, H.B. 6 requires that we pay subsidies on our electric bills to the Ohio Valley Electric Company (OVEC), which operates two antiquated 1950s coal-powered electric plants - one in Indiana. In fact, it is estimated that Ohio electricity customers, like you, have already paid over \$245,000,000 (!) and by 2030 \$750,000,000 (!) to OVEC - all because of an elaborate bribery scheme.

In my work at the Statehouse, I have found the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel to be one of my closest allies. They are about the only group in Columbus who truly looks out for *John and Judy Buckeye (you, that is)* when it comes to pushing back on utility proposals that would translate into higher costs for heating, cooking our food, keeping our lights on, and all of the other things we use electricity and natural gas for in our homes and businesses.

In Ohio consumers do not have a choice regarding the monopoly utility that provides their energy distribution service—the wires or pipelines. However, consumers can choose who supplies the electricity or natural gas that flows through the wires or pipelines. That energy supplier can be the same utility that provides the distribution service (by choosing the utility's "standard offer") or a marketer or government aggregator through Energy Choice programs.

Although it may vary somewhat depending on where you live in District 14, Electric Choice is offered to customers of First Energy, while Natural Gas Choice is offered to customers of Columbia Gas of Ohio and Dominion Energy. Parma and Parma Heights residents also have the option of selecting the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) for electricity and natural gas, while Cleveland residents have the option of the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) for electricity. I will explain this further inside.

As always, if my office may be of service, please contact us via phone or email. I also invite you to visit my website to learn more about how I am serving you and to sign up for my monthly newsletter. It is an honor to serve you!

Sincerely,



**Sean Patrick Brennan**

State Representative, District 14

77 South High Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

[ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan](http://ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan)

*Know that when I am working for you in Columbus at the Ohio Statehouse that I think about you, my constituents, during every meeting, conversation, and vote.*

*Ann Mowchan, who recently turned 103, is one of the many inspirational District 14 residents for whom it is an honor to serve.*



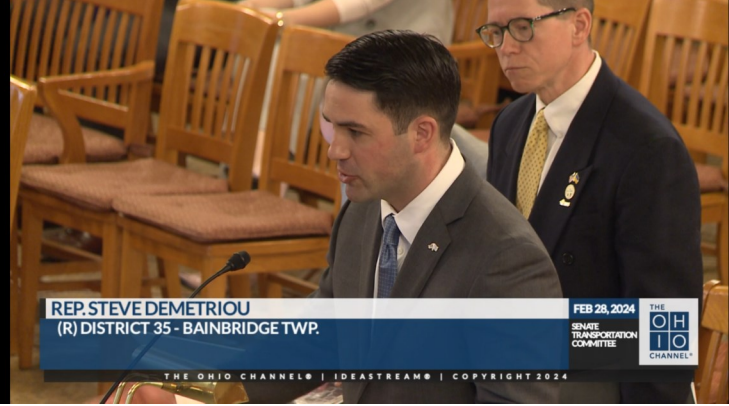


# House Bill (H.B.) 195 Continues to Move Through the Ohio General Assembly

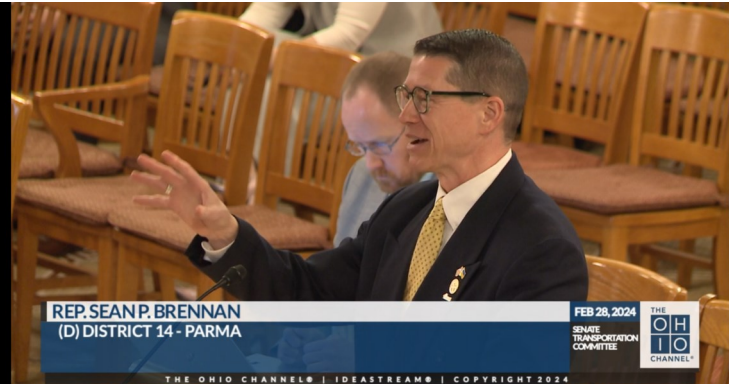
Back in January I announced the passage of my first bill out of the Ohio House of Representatives. House Bill (H.B.) 195, which will create an adaptive mobility car dealer license, is a bipartisan collaboration with my Republican colleague Rep. Steve Demetriou (Bainbridge Township). As I proudly mentioned then, since coming to the Statehouse in January, I have worked hard to build relationships with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Our bill is proof that bipartisanship is still alive and that, when we work together, Ohioans benefit.

Currently, car dealers who retrofit vehicles for the disabled community are operating in a gray area under Ohio law. H.B. 195 will clear up this area of the law to the benefit of legitimate car dealers and those they serve. Rep. Demetriou and I believe that our bill will lead to more adaptive dealers entering the market and result in better quality, lower prices, more choices, and further innovations in the adaptive automobile space. In fact, our bill will benefit disabled Ohioans in many ways, including giving them peace of mind that the vehicles they purchase are safe and reliable and that the vehicle warranties will be honored.

Recently, our bill was assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee and we were invited to present sponsor testimony. We anxiously await proponent testimony and an ultimate vote out of committee. Should it pass the committee, it will then be sent for a floor vote in the Senate. Because of some slight changes to the bill, it will then have to be reapproved by the Ohio House. If that occurs, it will go before Governor DeWine for his signature. Keep your fingers crossed. We have only passed 17 bills since I joined the Ohio General Assembly in January, 2023. Rep. Demetriou and I, who are both freshman, are very excited that we might be responsible for one of the few bills introduced that becomes law.



All Ohio General Assembly committees and sessions are televised live on the Ohio Channel and retained for future viewing. To watch Rep. Demetriou and I provide our testimony in the Senate Transportation Committee or any other meetings visit: [ohiochannel.org](http://ohiochannel.org).





## You Can Shop for Natural Gas and Electricity in Ohio

As I mentioned in my opening column, in Ohio consumers can shop around for their natural gas and electricity provider. In fact, more than ever, it is recommended that consumers do their research when purchasing their electricity or natural gas. That means that you should compare your options before choosing an energy supplier and to do so monthly to ensure that you are still saving money.



First, you should determine if you are currently buying your energy through your utility's standard offer. To do so, contact your utility or check your bill for this information. Before switching suppliers, be sure to check to see if you have a marketer contract that has a high *termination fee* that makes it too expensive to switch.

As part of Energy Choice, Ohio consumers can choose to purchase electricity or natural gas from an energy marketer. You would be charged by the marketer for the energy you use and still continue to pay your utility for their distribution service. Before contracting with a marketer, you should compare your utility's "Price to Compare" that appears on your electric bill and "Standard Choice Offer" on your natural gas bill to the various marketers' offers at the Public Utility Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) Apples to Apples website at [energychoice.ohio.gov](http://energychoice.ohio.gov). It is important to do your homework and to beware of teaser rates and high early termination fees from some companies. I highly recommend **NOT** buying energy from a door-to-door or in-store solicitor.

### Home Energy Assistance Program Information

[www.stepforwardtoday.org](http://www.stepforwardtoday.org) - 216-350-8008

## Medical Assistance Tool Could Save You Money on Prescription Drugs

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) created the Medicine Assistance Tool (MAT) to provide a dedicated search engine that allows users to search for financial assistance resources available to them, their loved ones or patients in their lives through the various biopharmaceutical industry programs available for patients who are eligible.



Medicine Assistance Tool

Building upon the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), MAT gives patients, loved ones and health care providers a single point of access to hundreds of public and private assistance programs, as well as connecting them with more transparent information about the cost of medicine.

PhRMA represents the top innovative biopharmaceutical research companies. MAT is the result of an ongoing effort between PhRMA, health care providers, pharmacists, patient advocacy organizations and community groups interested in helping patients access the information they need to be more empowered as they navigate a complex, and sometimes overwhelming, health care system. MAT's focus is to help people who visit the site be more aware of the various programs that make prescriptions more affordable for those in need.

The groups that support MAT include the largest and most influential in health care, ranging from patient groups to consumer groups to health care provider organizations and more.

MAT is a free-to-use search engine that focuses its searches on patient assistance resources available to eligible patients. Some organizations may falsely use MAT or our previous name (PPA). Please note that they will never ask for payment information.



**To Learn More Visit: [mat.org](http://mat.org)**



# State Representative Brennan Out in the Community

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1: What an honor it was to greet the St. Charles Borromeo School 4th Graders when they visited me at the Ohio Statehouse in March.

2: Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter and I enjoyed visiting Holy Family School in March to answer the student's questions on Career Day.

3: As a proud Irishman, it is always a pleasure to march in the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day parade, especially when I am accompanied by the Cleveland Police Honor Guard!