

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM STATE REP. MICHELE GRIM

OHIO STATEHOUSE
COLUMBUS

SEPTEMBER 2023



Michele Grim is a strong voice for northwest Ohio, representing the 43rd District (encompassing part of the City of Toledo and the Village of Ottawa Hills) in the Ohio House.

Dear Neighbor,

November 7th is Election Day and Ohioans will be voting in local races and on two statewide issues: reproductive freedom and the initiative to legalize recreational cannabis.

The **deadline to register to vote is October 10th** while **absentee voting and in-person early voting begin on October 11th**. Exercise your right to vote!

Michele

Rep. Grim to discuss state budget impacts at “People First” Town Hall

Rep. Michele Grim will host a town hall as part of the Ohio House Democrats’ People First Tour on **Wednesday, October 4, at 5:30 P.M. at the West Toledo Branch Library**. The event is one of a statewide series of town halls where Democratic lawmakers are discussing ongoing efforts to ensure all Ohioans have the freedom to be who they are, the dignity of a safe community and secure job, and the opportunity to thrive. Rep. Grim will discuss Ohio’s new state budget and its implications for local families.

Stronger labor protections sought to ensure fair compensation for “kidfluencers”

“Influencing” is big business these days and some social media content creators – including some young children – earn thousands of dollars for sponsored posts for major brands. However, labor laws that protect traditional child actors in entertainment and advertising don’t extend to today’s “kidfluencers,” leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and wage theft. A December 2022 poll by YouGov finds that nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) think that children who are social media influencers are “often” exploited by their employers or their guardians. Rep. Michele Grim is preparing to introduce a bill in the House this month that addresses this challenge and helps ensure Ohio’s young content creators are protected and rightfully compensated.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds Bolster Mental Health & Addiction Crisis Services

Thanks to President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), \$90 million in new funding is flowing to mental health and addiction crisis services across Ohio. A total of 37 regional projects are receiving ARPA funds through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. These initiatives will address various gaps in local crisis systems, supporting projects such as short-term residential accommodations, behavioral health urgent care facilities, mobile crisis response teams, and infrastructural improvements.

"I am pleased to share that over \$6.5 million is going directly to Lucas County mental health and addiction services, such as the Northwest Ohio Regional Board Collaborative," said Rep. Michele Grim. **"Investments like these increase opportunities for all Ohioans to access the mental health support they deserve and need."**

A public health professional who has spent her career working to improve medical care for underserved communities, Rep. Grim is making strengthening Ohioans' access to mental health and addiction treatment a top priority in the Ohio General Assembly.

Local residents seeking mental health or addiction treatment can reach the 24-hour Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County at 419-904-2273.

Contact us!

Residents of the 43rd House District can contact us at any time by calling **614-644-6017** or emailing **Rep43@ohiohouse.gov**.

Here are some ways our office can assist:

- Resolving disputes with government agencies
- Issuing Ohio House of Representatives commendations, condolences, and congratulatory letters
- Hearing opinions or concerns with bills moving through the legislature
- Connecting you or your business to state programs or services

We look forward to hearing from you!

Rep. Grim participates in bipartisan educational mission to Israel

Rep. Michele Grim recently joined Ohio Jewish Communities and a bipartisan group of Ohio House members on an educational mission to Israel. The delegation had a busy and varied itinerary, including learning about the country's innovation economy as well as how they are managing their water crisis. Rep. Grim visited Yad Vashem to remember victims of the Holocaust and traveled to numerous holy sites, including the Mount of the Beatitudes.

