

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM STATE REP. MICHELE GRIM

OHIO STATEHOUSE
COLUMBUS

MARCH 2024

Michele Grim is a strong voice for Lucas County, representing the 43rd District in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Dear Neighbor,

March is Women's History Month and last week Ohio House Democrats honored the occasion last week by highlighting legislative priorities we're fighting for - from protecting reproductive freedom to ensuring equal pay to strengthening the rights of survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence. Ohio can and must do more to support and empower women and girls!

As your Representative, I'm working with colleagues to address urgent priorities facing working families and invest in Ohio's future. In February, the House passed H.B. 2, appropriating \$2 billion of funds for economic development and community investments that will help drive growth and create opportunities across Ohio. H.B. 2 allocates half of the \$700 million in One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund set aside in the most recent state operating budget. Some of the many shovel-ready community projects I'm proud to have secured funding for in the bill include:

- **\$1.6 million for the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department for facility repairs**
- **\$1 million for the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport for a terminal renovation project**
- **\$1 million for the YWCA of Northwest Ohio for improvements to the Domestic Violence Shelter**
- **\$950,000 for the Ottawa Park Ice Rink to build an open air structure and a restroom**
- **\$850,000 for the Toledo Zoo for upgrades to the Reptile House to improve public access**
- **\$650,000 for SeaGate Food Bank for improvements, including a new freezer to double storage capacity**

Because our state universities and community colleges are beacons of opportunity and economic engines powering our future, I'm proud that H.B. 2 additionally delivers more than \$43.5 million for projects at area colleges, including \$19 million for the University of Toledo here in House District 43. The bill now heads to the Ohio Senate for further consideration.

Community projects will have additional funding opportunities from the traditional capital budget and the remaining one-time funds. I'm working hard to deliver for our communities and look forward to sharing more news as the capital budget process moves forward.

Michele

Rep. Grim advocates *Keeping Our Survivors Safe Act* to stop domestic violence homicides

Nearly half of all women murdered in the U.S. are killed by a current or former husband or boyfriend – and two-thirds of those murders are shootings. Abusers with guns use them to threaten, coerce, control, and kill their victims. A woman is five times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun.

Rep. Michele Grim and Rep. Munira Abdullahi (D-Columbus) recently introduced the **Keeping Our Survivors Safe Act** to prohibit convicted domestic abusers and individuals charged with domestic violence from possessing guns.

Federal law prohibits convicted abusers from possessing guns but enforcement is severely limited without corresponding state legislation. Numerous states have additionally prohibited those charged with abuse from possessing firearms as evidence demonstrates the period following a charge is fraught with danger, as abusers often retaliate against their victims.



Rep. Michele Grim and Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein at the Gun Violence Prevention Summit at the Ohio Statehouse in February

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 seeks to end “puppy mill-to-pet store pipeline” to protect dogs and consumers

Rep. Michele Grim recently introduced H.B. 443, which would repeal a state law that prevents local communities from regulating pet store puppy sales. Puppy mills are large commercial facilities that mass-produce dogs for profit with little concern for the animals’ health and wellbeing. The state preemption was passed in 2016 at the urging of the Petland chain and their lobbyist. The Plain Dealer recently reported on how Petland sells sick and dying dogs from puppy mills to unsuspecting customers.

H.B. 443 is a bipartisan bill and is supported by the Humane Society of the United States in Ohio. The bill now awaits a hearing in the House.

New bill would designate March as Women’s History Month in Ohio



Rep. Michele Grim and Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio (D-Gahanna) recently introduced H.B. 454, which would designate March as Women’s History Month in the state of Ohio.

Visit **WomensHistoryMonth.gov** to learn more about the vital contributions of women in American history.