

REPRESENTATIVE BETH LEAR

Ohio House of Representatives
61st House District



It is an honor to serve as your State Representative for the 61st House District. In my first year in office, I introduced legislation that protects our children and vulnerable Ohioans, advocated for lowering taxes, and worked with my colleagues and constituents to make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
State Representative Beth Lear



House Bill 236

Representative Melanie Miller and I spoke in favor of our legislation, House Bill 236, "The Never Alone Act."

The bill ensures every patient has access to an advocate to be with them in a hospital, nursing home, or other congregate care setting - especially during a health emergency.

In learning from the COVID emergency when Ohioans were isolated from loved ones, the bill:

- Creates a right for patients and long-term care residents to have access to an advocate of their choosing so that they can be accompanied by a loved one who can advocate for their health if needed and be a familiar face of support.
- Requires care facilities to provide patients and residents with information about their right to select an advocate and have the advocate with them in the care setting; and
- Balances protecting the rights and interests of patients with the health and safety concerns of the care facilities by ensuring patients are not totally isolated from loved ones while simultaneously protecting the care facilities from specific risks and liabilities.

While the need for an advocate became obvious during COVID, it remains clear that patients and residents need access to loved ones whenever they are in a vulnerable healthcare situation. We simply want to ensure no one is forced to suffer or die alone ever again. We must protect our most vulnerable citizens during a healthcare crisis.

House Bill 236 will continue to have hearings in the House Health Provider Services Committee.



House Bill 183

I am proud to be a joint sponsor of House Bill 183, which will protect all students in Ohio schools. The legislation requires public and chartered nonpublic schools, educational service centers, and institutions of higher education to designate specified facilities for the exclusive use of students of either the male biological sex or the female biological sex.

Many Ohioans are concerned and don't want their local schools to allow the opposite sex into a restroom, locker room, or overnight accommodation that is designed for multiple students. House Bill 183 will eliminate difficult situations for school leaders and will create consistent policies across the state.

House Bill 183 will continue to have hearings in the House Higher Education Committee.

House Bill 187

House Bill 187, more commonly known as the Ohio Homeowners Relief Act, was created to help Ohioans remain in their homes by modifying the procedures used by the Tax Commissioner to conduct property tax sales assessment ratio studies to produce fair property valuations.

This legislation is necessary to protect the residents of the 61st House District from the burden of rising property taxes. This legislation will place more control in the hands of local elected officials who know their counties best.

I voted in favor of this legislation in committee, on the House floor, and co-sponsored the bill. When the bill passed the Senate, it was substantially changed from a statewide valuation modification to an expanded homestead exemption. While this is a step, more needs to be done to help *all* Ohioans who are struggling to pay their property taxes and keep their homes during this period of inflation. I will continue to work to bring tax fairness and relief to Ohioans.

CONTACT MY OFFICE

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