

March 14, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

OLBC Leadership

President

Rep. Stephanie Howse

1st Vice President

Rep. Thomas West

2nd Vice President

Rep. Catherine Ingram

Treasurer

Rep. Janine Boyd

Sgt. at Arms

Rep. Phil Robinson

Parliamentarian

Rep. Erica Crawley

Dear Governor DeWine, President Obhof and Speaker Householder,

On behalf of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC), we are reaching out to you regarding the ongoing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) here in Ohio. We appreciate the diligent work that continues to date in preparing the State of Ohio for this crisis. The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus would like to share with you our top priorities to support and protect the health and safety of everyday Ohioans:

1. **Extend Early Vote In-Person Hours** – extend Sunday in person early voting hours by at least 3 hours and extend Monday in person early voting hours by at least 2 hours.
2. **Resources for Transportation, Relocation and Cleaning of Polling Locations on Election Date** – allocate resources to support local boards of election to assist voters during In-Person Early Voting and on Election Day. Local boards of elections need transportation available for community members who are impacted by the relocation of polling locations, effective communication tools to inform voters of last-minute polling changes and supplies to properly disinfect and maintain clean poll booths and voting areas.
3. **No Utility Shut-offs or Evictions/Foreclosures** – require a 45-day extension after the state of emergency before utility shut offs or eviction/foreclosure proceedings can occur.
4. **Temporary Paid Family Leave** – adoption of a temporary paid family leave policy that will prevent financial ruin of families and provide flexibility in the workplace to ensure children and seniors are cared for.
5. **Food Stability** – allocate needed resources to school districts and organizations that provide food security to ensure Ohio’s school children can have access to meals during the crisis.
6. **Academic Relief** – make the required school testing changes to ensure school districts will be held harmless from evaluations due to the disruption of educational instruction of our children.

We are calling upon the leadership of the Ohio Senate, Ohio House of Representatives and the Governor’s Administration to work collaboratively and to convene the Ohio General Assembly within 24 – 48 hours to take the necessary legislative actions to help our fellow Ohioans.

We are encouraging all Ohioans to call their state elected officials to urge the Ohio General Assembly to get back to work on behalf of the people of Ohio.

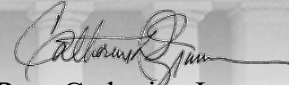
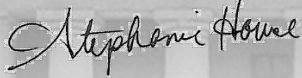
We look forward to coming back to Columbus and working with you to help our Ohio families successfully maintain and navigate the constant changes that will be required during this crisis.

OLBC Leadership

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Rep. Stephanie Howse

Yours in Service,

1st Vice President
Rep. Thomas West



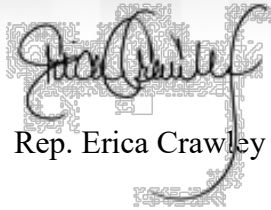
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