



# A Legislative Report from Rep. Kenny Yuko

7th District of Ohio • Cities of Euclid and South Euclid, Richmond Heights and Collinwood



Kenny Yuko  
State Representative

## Dear Constituents,

Young people who just graduated from high school weren't even in kindergarten yet when Ohio's school funding system was declared unconstitutional. An entire generation of students has gone through Ohio's public schools under a system the courts have declared unfair.

There is nothing more important to our future than education, and that's why I am working diligently on an education reform plan that will ensure excellence and equality among Ohio school districts.

The new plan replaces the old funding plan with one based on student's needs, and my colleagues and I in the Ohio House have made it significantly stronger. The Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee heard from over 320 people in more than 50 hours of testimony across Ohio.

Ohio's economy succeeds when Ohio's schools succeed. Preparing every student for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy is a key to our economic prosperity. World class schools will strengthen our workforce and attract businesses to Ohio. It's important to note that Ohio is investing in students while many other states are cutting money for schools.

The House plan provides resources to districts with the greatest educational challenges. It lowers local taxpayer burden and increases the state's contribution, and reduces the number of times schools will come to you asking to pass a levy.

It also makes sure we are using methods that help kids learn: smaller classes, better teachers and more learning time.

You need to know where your tax dollars are going, so accountability is a major part of the plan. It sets up a regular review of school district spending. And since teachers are such a crucial element in student learning, a residency program and enhanced professional development opportunities are included for our educators.

Feel free to contact me with your ideas as we work toward the best possible plan for education in Ohio. We owe ourselves, and our young people, nothing less.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko  
State Representative

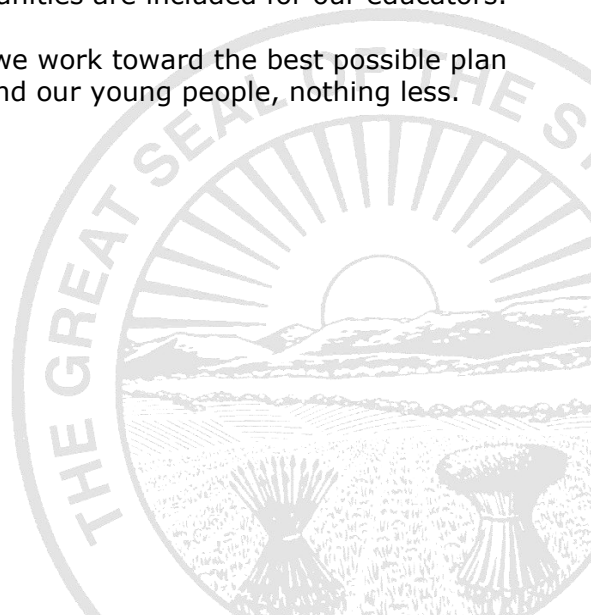
## CONTACT

### Columbus Office

7th District  
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11th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: (614) 466-8012  
Toll-free: (800) 282-0253  
Fax: (614) 719-0007

Or E-mail At:  
[district07@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district07@ohr.state.oh.us)



## Contacting Representative Kenny Yuko

You have several options if you would like to contact Representative Yuko. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions and will do everything we can to help you. We also welcome invitations to speak to your group or organization.



### Via Telephone (Columbus Office)

Direct Phone: (614) 466-8012

Toll-Free Messaging System:  
(800) 282-0253

Direct Fax: (614) 719-0007

### Via Electronic Mail (E-Mail)

To contact the office via e-mail,  
please use the following address:  
[district07@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district07@ohr.state.oh.us)



### Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)

Hon. Kenny Yuko  
State Representative, 07th District  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

## Important State Contact Information

### Ohio House of Representatives

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)

Legislative Information 800-282-0253

### Insurance, Department of

<http://ohioinsurance.gov/>

Consumer Hotline 800-686-1526  
Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program  
800-686-1578

### Jobs and Family Services, Department of

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/>

Veteran Services Division 800-253-4060  
Unemployment Compensation Hotline 877-644-6562

### Motor Vehicles, Bureau of

<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/>

General Information 800-589-TAGS

### Public Safety, Department of

<http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/>

Highway Patrol 877-7-PATROL  
State Highway Patrol DUI Hotline 800-GRAB-DUI

### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

<http://www.puco.ohio.gov/>

General Information 800-686-PUCO

### Taxation, Department of

<http://tax.ohio.gov/>

Form Requests 800-282-1782  
Individual Taxpayer Assistance 800-282-1780

### Aging, Department of

<http://aging.ohio.gov/home/>

Golden Buckeye Card 866-301-6446  
Ombudsman/Elder Rights Unit 800-282-1206



**Save these numbers for  
future reference!**

## Transportation Task Force Releases Recommendations

*Reports Calls for Advanced Transportation Technology for Ohio*



Ohio has a considerable transportation system. Planes, trains, automobiles and boats move people and products easily throughout the state.

We have the 7th largest highway system in the nation and the 4th greatest

quantity of active rail miles. Our rail transportation and trucking industries are ranked 4th in the U.S with a combined total annual output of \$5.2 billion. We are 4th in the nation in maritime tonnage with more freight traffic moving through our waters than the amount that goes through the Panama Canal each year.

This data supports a vision of Ohio as a leader in the development of transportation technology that has been put forth by a task force created by Governor Ted Strickland.

In a report released earlier this year, the task force warns that the infrastructure is aging, transit systems are not adequate and maritime facilities are under used. The report claims Ohio should pay more attention to non-highway forms of transportation, and encourages expanding public and private funding for future projects.

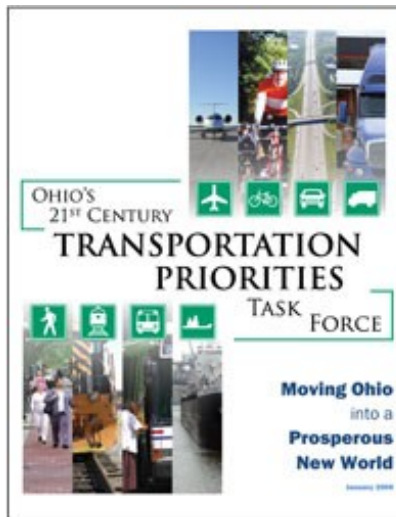
Governor Strickland has called for a passenger rail to run from Cleveland to Cincinnati with possible stops in cities along the way. He has also proposed to reform funding for such projects by charging tolls on new roads and increasing the fees for vehicle registration and license screening.

In the past, the transportation budget, which is created by the Ohio Department of Transportation,

has been geared toward roads and highways. In their report, the task force states that the infrastructure is "aging, insufficient, and financially unsustainable." They propose encouraging economic prosperity while promoting the state as a front-runner in transportation technology.

Recommendations of the task force include:

- Giving Ohioans more options for getting where they want to go and for moving goods through the development of an internally connected system.
- Coordinating transportation services for all Ohioans including those who are transit dependent, senior citizens, people with disabilities and veterans.
- Reducing the state's carbon footprint, promoting energy sustainability and improving Ohioan's quality of life through the expanded use of alternative fuels, technologies and public transit.
- Making sure Ohio's transportation system is the safest in the nation by embedding "safety first" in planning, education and enforcement.



Currently, much of the state's transportation budget is financed through its 26 cents per gallon motor fuel tax. However, under Ohio's constitution, funds generated through the gas tax can only be spent on highways.

The ideas proposed by the task force will be vigorously debated in the Ohio House. What remains certain is the desire of Ohioans to strengthen and improve their state even in the face of economic uncertainty.

### **::FYI::**

To read the report issued by the Transportation Task Force or to review information relating to the Ohio Department of Transportation State Budget Proposal visit:

**[www.dot.state.oh.us/](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/)**

## General Assembly Works to Keep Teens Safe

*Two Bills Have Been Introduced to Curb Teen Dating Violence*



love is respect org

National Teen Dating Helpline

1-866-331-9474 1-866-331-8453 TTY

Tina Croucher was 18 years old and living with her parents in Middletown when her boyfriend broke into the house. He shot her to death, and then killed himself.

Johanna Orozco of Cleveland, now 20, was 18 when her ex-boyfriend raped her. He then stalked her, and shot her in the face with a sawed-off shotgun.

These individual cases reveal a disturbing trend in teenage dating violence. A study by Teenage Research Unlimited and published by the Liz Claiborne Inc. Foundation on teen dating abuse provides information on violence in teenage relationships.

The report finds that 1 in 3 teens say they know someone who has been hit, punched, kicked or otherwise physically hurt by their partner. That number almost doubles when you include verbal abuse. 62% of teens ages 11 to 14 say they know someone who has been verbally mistreated in a relationship. However, even with all that abuse, only half of the teenagers surveyed say they know the warning signs of a bad or hurtful relationship.

Given how serious this violence is, and how often it occurs, members of the House are working to provide Ohio teens with ways to protect themselves. Two bills have been introduced in the current session of the General Assembly to reduce violence in teen dating relationships. House Bill 10, sponsored by State Rep. Edna Brown, would fix a possible deadly gap in Ohio law. Now, young people under age 18 cannot always go to court to get a protection order against someone they have dated. This bill allows them to go to Juvenile Court if they are threatened or have been abused.

House Bill 19, sponsored by State Rep. Sandra Stabile Harwood, would make sure that every public school in Ohio teaches students about teen dating violence. It also orders the school district's health curriculum to include information on dating violence.

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray has expressed his support for both bills. And Governor Ted Strickland declared a week in February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week in Ohio.

### Warning Signs Someone You Know May Be in a Violent Relationship

- 1.) The partner gets extremely jealous when the other talks to members of the opposite sex, even though it's completely innocent.
- 2.) The partner always calls, texts or otherwise checks up on the other and demands to know where the other is and who they are with.
- 3.) One partner constantly loses their temper and frequently breaks or hits things when they are angry.
- 4.) One partner's weight, appearance or grades have changed dramatically. Any of these changes could be signs of depression which might indicate abuse.
- 5.) One partner gives up things that used to be important to them, such as spending time with friends or other activities, and has become increasingly isolated.

The health and safety of our young people is very important. These bills are part of our pledge at the Statehouse to take action on an issue that affects too many teenagers.

**"1 in 3 teens say they know someone who has been hit, punched, kicked or otherwise physically hurt by their partner."**

## Consumer Protection Takes a Front Seat

*Ohio House Takes Steps to Help You Be a Smart Consumer*

Rip-offs, scams, con games and those who want to take advantage of you are all around us, and the Ohio House is making a serious effort to protect the rights of consumers. Especially in tough economic times, it's important to be a smart buyer and be protected from those who would prey on you. This is true everywhere from college campuses to your own neighborhood.

Consumer protection is an important concern for the Ohio House, as this year Speaker Armond Budish created a new standing committee devoted solely to the issue. The Consumer Protection and Economic Affairs committee considers lending practices and general consumer issues. The creation of this committee shows how critical the House views legislation that will focus on the individual needs of consumers.

Already the Ohio House is working on a number of bills aimed at helping you as a consumer protect yourself.



One bill (House Bill 12) intends to protect students from credit card marketing practices. A charge card can be handy for someone in school, but too often it can lead to

mountains of debt even before graduation. College students are especially vulnerable to marketing tactics. Many are working part time while taking classes and don't have the income to make the payments. Students are also an easy target because credit cards seem to offer them financial independence for the first time in their lives. This lack of experience makes it easy to get trapped by payments they can't really afford.

A recent report cited by the Ohio Credit Union League says more students drop out of college as a result of bad credit than academic failure. This legislation hopes to stop that cycle; it will ban credit card companies from holding marketing activities at Ohio public colleges and universities.

Two other bills deal with the issues that arise all too often these days when home foreclosure rates are skyrocketing. The Home Foreclosure Prevention Bill (HB 3) will protect homeowners by establishing longer

notification requirements. It also includes a 6 month timeout on foreclosure proceedings to allow homeowners to work out a loan modification or take advantage of President Obama's foreclosure plan.

Renters get caught up in home foreclosures as well. They often don't know their landlord is in foreclosure until the Sheriff knocks on the door with an eviction notice and says "get out." The Renters Protection Act (HB 9) aims to add protection for those Ohioans. The bill requires landlords to notify all current tenants if the property they are renting is in foreclosure or under threat of foreclosure.

The foreclosure crisis affects us all; our neighbors are in trouble and our neighborhoods are being depleted. These two bills can help Ohioans overcome the often devastating effects of this problem.



### **ON LINE HELP**

The Ohio Attorney General has a program called "Save the Dream" that offers help and advice for those facing foreclosure. Their website is:

**<http://www.savethedream.ohio.gov/>**

You can also log onto this website to get more ideas and helpful links on consumer issues from the Ohio Attorney General:

**<http://www.ag.state.oh.us/citizen/consumer/index.asp>**

## Federal Stimulus Money Comes to Ohio

*Program Will Help Jump Start Ohio's Economy*

The national economy is struggling, and too many Ohioans are struggling as well. These tough times require the use of every resource we have to jump-start our economy and create jobs. If we don't take action and work to move our economy forward, we risk putting Ohio further behind once the national recession lifts.

The Ohio House has taken action to use federal stimulus money to immediately begin creating jobs and positioning our economy for long-term growth. Ohio is getting \$5.8 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—a shot in the arm to our ailing economy – a bold move to get it healthy again.

These dollars are about jobs. By attracting industry to our state, the free market can promote a healthy economy as we come out on the other side of this recession. Sustainable growth and prosperity begins with the action we take now.

There are a few major ways the federal funds will come to Ohio. For one, the stimulus bill includes money for federally guaranteed loans under the Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program. Loans backed by the government help in an economic climate where credit is still frozen for too many businesses. The loans will go toward businesses that invest in emerging technologies. New industries not only create jobs in the short-term, but they also help other businesses to grow alongside them, providing long-term economic development.

We are also using federal funds to invest in infrastructure. \$1.1 billion of our transportation budget went toward keeping our roadways safe. Good roads also allow small businesses to move their goods and industry to develop along

transportation corridors. The jobs created as a result can invigorate communities.

We've pulled down \$629 million for energy efficiency, green technologies, and weatherization. These are investments that reap lasting benefits. For example, weatherizing our buildings decreases energy use and increases cost savings. When people save money on energy, they invest it back into the economy.

There are many opportunities for investments now that save money later. \$26 million will support preventive health care services. Countless studies show that the more we invest in preventive measures like wellness and regular doctor visits, the more long-term costs we save.



And we've also used stimulus funds to support vital services in Ohio, such as Medicaid, unemployment compensation, and school lunches. In tough times, when more and more Ohioans are in need, it is critical to maintain our social safety net. We've also invested \$38 million from the federal government to uphold our police forces to help keep citizens safe.

**... a shot in the arm  
to our ailing economy**

These are unique times. With major layoffs and foreclosures in the news, we must act to put Ohio back on the road to prosperity. The investments we are making will help get Ohio's economy moving again and improve our financial position for tomorrow.