



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,

One of the most rewarding things about being your state representative is the opportunity to help make people's lives just a little better. While we have been making some difficult and often painful decisions on how to balance the state budget, it is heartening to know that the business of state government is about doing what is in the best interests of the citizens of Ohio.

In the past few weeks we have passed a number of bills in the Ohio House to improve our quality of life. To combat the devastating impacts of the housing crisis, we approved a conditional six-month moratorium on foreclosures that provides families reasonable options to save their houses. We cannot afford to let this crisis continue to hurt families, ruin neighborhoods and hurt our economy.

Health and safety are important, and we've addressed both of those issues recently. The House approved a bill for school districts to teach students about the dangers of dating abuse. With stories of young people injured and even murdered by their dating partners, it is important they have the information they need to avoid these tragedies.

We've also passed a bill to stop people who have been convicted of identity theft or a sexually oriented offense from legally changing their name. It is designed to allow for easier tracking of these criminals and to keep them from hiding their identity by a name change.

The House is also working to make life better for our men and women in military service and their families. Since deployments often come with short notice, we've approved a bill to let members of the armed services and the Ohio National Guard terminate a rental agreement when they are ordered to ship out.

The Family Military Leave Act, approved by the House, would provide two weeks of unpaid leave from work for spouses or parents of military personnel when they are called to active duty, or wounded in action.

If you have ideas for making Ohio a better place to work, live and play, I'd like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

CONTACT

Columbus Office

7th District
77 South High Street
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

August 2009

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



Via Postal Mail (Columbus Office)

Hon. Kenny Yuko
State Representative, 7th 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

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!**

Ohio House Declares August “Military Family Month”

Legislation, Programs Support Unsung Heroes at Home

They are the unsung heroes of military life: the husbands and wives, sons and daughters of Americans in uniform. While their loved ones are defending our freedom, these military family members are often back home alone trying to cope with the challenges of everyday life. It can be a difficult situation.



The Ohio House has approved a bill that designates August as “Ohio Military Family Month.” House Bill 150 is designed to express gratitude to the family members of service men and women to let them know that their role is neither forgotten nor taken for granted.

Military families often face unique challenges and difficulties. They must endure long separations from loved ones, frequent deployments and being uprooted from community ties as they move to bases across the country and overseas.

There are more than 1.8 million family members of the Armed Forces and an additional 1.1 million family members of reserve units in our state. Slightly more than half are married, and 2 million Ohio children are dependants of service members.

Wives and husbands of service members display an uncommon courage and strength as they steadfastly support their spouses during long and arduous deployments. They are concerned about the safety and well-being of their deployed loved ones, but there are many other challenges. From managing household finances to comforting children impacted by a military parent's absence, these spouses take on the burdens of maintaining families largely on their own.

Some bills approved by the Ohio House this year:

HB 48 Creates the Family Military Leave Act, which, under certain conditions, provides two weeks of unpaid leave for any employee who is the spouse or parent of a member of the uniformed services who is called to active duty or is injured, wounded, or hospitalized while serving in a combat zone.

HB64 Allows members of the armed services and the Ohio National Guard to terminate a rental agreement when the member receives military orders to deploy or for a permanent change of station.

HB165 The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is an agreement among member states to establish a set of practices that will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and between states.

HB150 Declares August “Ohio Military Family Month”

The mission of the Ohio Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee is to leave no military service member or family behind. They have formed a statewide "safety net" for them. The purpose of the program is to connect military families with volunteer services within their community, plus government and faith-based organizations to help ease their family's burden.

www.homefront.ohio.gov
1-877-695-2170

Ohio Explores Reviving Passenger Rail Service

Studies Underway to Determine Feasibility



Passenger trains have a major role in the history of Ohio, and they could play a big part in our future. Rail service would be a good, affordable transportation alternative that would keep cars off the highway, easing

congestion and pollution while creating jobs.

The State Transportation Budget approved by the Ohio House and signed by the Governor calls for a study of the idea of bringing passenger trains back to Ohio, even high speed trains. A study is underway now on what kind of revenue and ridership Ohio might see.

The law also includes working with Amtrak to improve existing service between Toledo and Cleveland with an eye toward connecting Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati and points in between. Amtrak is making recommendations on which routes would make the most sense for connecting Ohio cities.



Ohio is vying for federal stimulus dollars to support the funding for this.

How Will Ohio Business Benefit?

- According to the American Public Transit Association, it is reasonable to expect 24 new jobs created for every \$1 million invested in public transportation projects.
- A fully-built Ohio Hub system will generate estimated 6,000+ construction jobs alone over the project lifetime. In excess of 16,000 jobs will be generated by development in and around station stops and along the corridors.

Information provided by the Ohio Rail Development Commission

What Will It Cost?

The average per mile fare nationally on Amtrak is approximately \$.14 cents. That translates to an average of around \$20 to \$25 for a one-way ticket at conventional speeds (79 MPH max) between Columbus and Cleveland, for instance.

Who Will Ride Trains in Ohio?

- 8.6% of Ohioans who either do not have access to a motor vehicle or are physically unable to drive.
 - Generations of young people, both students and professionals. Noted author Richard Florida calls them "The Creative Class": an estimated 40 million strong, making up 30% of the U.S. workforce, with 50% of wages earned and controlling nearly 70% of discretionary spending in the US and who are or are seeking to be less and less dependent on owning and operating a motor vehicle.
 - Growing population of older Ohioans: the U.S. Census predicts that Ohioans age 65 and over will account for over 16% of the total state population by the year 2015 and 20% by 2030.
 - Ohio business people who can be more productive without the hassles of highway travel.
- #### **Do Ohio Cities Benefit From Where The Train Stops?**
- Train stations can be multi-purpose, serving as hubs for both intercity passenger trains and local mass transit (both rubber-tired and rail-based).
 - Stations can include small businesses that cater to passengers: coffee shops, sandwich shops, dry cleaners, newsstands, etc. The neighborhood around the stations can also see new development.



Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE KENNY YUKO
AUGUST 2009

Your views on issues facing state government are important to me. Please take the time to share your opinion on the following topics. I look forward to hearing from you!

1. Would you support building casinos in Ohio if the proposal was structured differently than the one defeated at the polls last November?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

2. Would you support raising the speed limit for passenger vehicles on interstate freeways from 65 mph to 70 mph?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

3. Do you support statewide efforts to update the passenger rail transportation system throughout Ohio?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

4. Would you support legislation that requires mandatory background checks for all volunteers who have direct unsupervised contact with children?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

5. Would you support an increase in the amount of insurance drivers must have in order to legally drive in this state?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

6. Should Ohio require insurance companies to provide coverage for conditions such as diabetes and autism?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

7. Do you support limits on marketing by credit card companies on university and college campuses?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

8. Please list what you believe to be the three biggest issues facing Ohio:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Additional Comments:

Please fold and return this form to me at the address listed on the other side. If you would like to receive information and legislative updates in the future, please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail: _____



TAPE HERE

**Thank you for completing this legislative survey.
Please don't hesitate to contact my office
with any issues or opinions you may have!**

FOLD UNDER AND SECURE WITH TAPE

(PLEASE FILL IN YOUR ADDRESS)

PLACE STAMP
HERE
POST OFFICE
WILL NOT
DELIVER
WITHOUT
PROPER
POSTAGE

Hon. Kenny Yuko
State Representative, 7th District
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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