



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,

As the calendar turns to a new year, it is a good time to reflect on how we have met the challenges we faced in 2009. There is no doubt this has been a difficult year in many ways, especially with the national recession, but I believe we are positioning Ohio for greater prosperity in 2010 and beyond.

Despite unprecedented economic challenges, my fellow members of the House and I were able to craft a balanced budget that focused on growing Ohio's economy and securing a brighter future. We passed programs like the technology investment tax credit for investors, new markets tax credit and tax credits to stimulate business development in Ohio.

The budget also included comprehensive education reform that replaced a broken funding system with one based on the key elements of a quality education such as smaller classes, better-supported teachers and more learning time for students. Our plan modernizes state curriculum to ensure our students have the resources to lead the new economy. We also kept our commitment to keep college education affordable by capping tuition increases at 3.5 percent for the next two years.

In order to combat the devastating effects of the housing crisis, we passed the Home Foreclosure Prevention Bill. This measure places a moratorium on home foreclosures and provides a reasonable solution that allows families the opportunity to save their homes.

We promoted fairness and equality across Ohio by passing the Equal Housing and Employment Act prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing or public accommodations.

Most recently, the House passed the Elections Enhancement bill. This comprehensive legislation aims to improve Ohio election laws and address the specific problems that have occurred in past Ohio elections.

I always welcome your thoughts, concerns and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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

January 2010



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!**

More Money for HEAP This Winter

New Guidelines Mean More Homes Will Be Heated



More Ohioans will be able to get help paying their heating bills this winter. The Ohio

Department of Development has increased the income level guidelines so that more people will be eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Households are eligible for HEAP assistance if their income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, an increase from the previous level of 175 percent. This means the program will help heat more homes this winter.

The state is expecting to have approximately \$220 million in Home Energy Assistance Program

funds this winter to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the cost of home energy bills. The Program, administered by the Department's Office of Community Services, pays a one-time payment for the current winter heating season. Households with elderly or disabled members may qualify for a larger amount of assistance.

A special component of HEAP, the Winter Crisis Program, is administered by Community Action agencies throughout Ohio. The Winter Crisis Program provides assistance once per heating season to eligible households that are disconnected, threatened with disconnection, or have less than a 10 day supply of bulk fuel.

For more information about HEAP or to apply for assistance, call the toll free HEAP hotline at 1-800-282-0880, Monday through Friday or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.

House Introduces Bill to Enhance Education in Ohio

Legislation Increases Ohio's Highly Competitive Position to Secure Federal Resources

The Ohio House is continuing our commitment to world-class education and positioning students as leaders in the 21st century economy.

Recently legislation was introduced in the House to position the state to get a share of the \$4.5 billion "Race to the Top" fund initiated by the federal government.

The "Race to the Top" grant program is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law in February of 2009 by President Obama.



The program looks to encourage and reward states who are taking steps to enhance and reform their education systems.

Ohio is already highly competitive among states for this funding. The evidence-based education reform

passed in the state budget strengthened Ohio's position in the race for the grant money. Currently, we meet nine of the 10 essential elements.

The legislation, if passed, will guarantee that we fulfill all of these elements where Ohio's educational policies can be enhanced.

Under the bill, the state will adopt accountability standards for the operation of online schools, also known as eSchools in Ohio.

This bill also establishes a data system that combines information currently gathered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Board of Regents. This data system will provide educators and policymakers with the information necessary to improve student achievement by analyzing their progress over time.

How To Revitalize the Auto Industry in Ohio

Joint Committee of Legislators Recommends Actions for Strengthening Industry



The automobile industry is a vital part of Ohio's economy. We are second only to Michigan in U.S. automobile manufacturing output. The industry employs nearly 127,000 Ohioans and makes up 16 percent of the total private sector job market in the state.

In addition to providing jobs for Ohioans, the automobile industry's economic success allows Ohio to lead the way

in areas such as aerospace and defense. The economic gains of the industry have also ensured future success in other fields such as advanced energy.

The industry has recently suffered setbacks in the current economic climate. In an effort to recommend ways to help the industry get back on its feet again, the Ohio House created the Joint Select Committee on the Impact of the Changing Automobile Industry. The committee, composed of Democratic and Republican members of the Ohio House and Senate, was formed specifically to look at areas such as franchise laws, consumer protection issues and warranties.

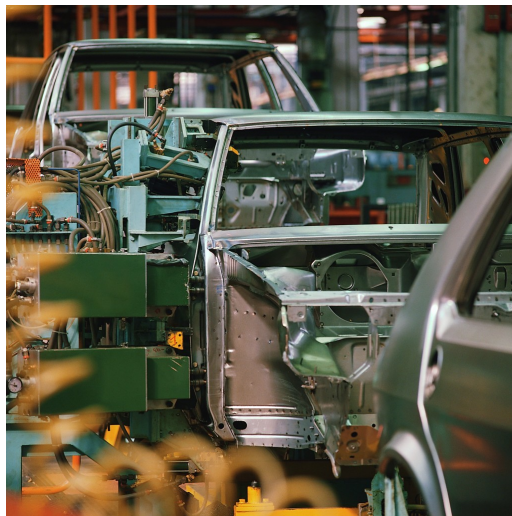
The committee traveled to communities across the state to hear from those most affected by recent changes in the automobile industry. During these hearings, committee members listened to vehicle manufacturers, parts suppliers, auto dealers, industry workers and community members. All spoke to the unprecedented circumstances they've faced due to the current crisis.

The committee's final report addresses these challenges and makes several recommendations to help strengthen the auto industry for the future. Recommendations include tools for enhancing the economic development of the industry, employee protections, worker training and education initiatives, tax incentives and programs and franchise law improvements.

Highlights of the Joint Select Committee's Recommendations:

Economic Development

- Designate a point person in the Department of Development to streamline industry regulation.
- Create a system of regional incentives to encourage collaboration and support of Ohio workers and businesses.
- Improve the credits available to auto dealers and suppliers.



Employee Protections

- Hold manufacturers accountable for health insurance and pension obligations to Ohio auto industry workers
- Urge Congress to address pension protection reform and bankruptcy law reform, in order to help manufacturers keep promises to employees and to ensure greater protections for Ohio businesses and consumers.

Worker Training and Education

- Promote world-class automotive research to keep Ohio ahead of the curve, using tools like Ohio's research Scholars Program.
- Retool worker training programs to maintain Ohio's highly skilled auto workforce. Programs will focus on better partnerships with development programs and an evaluation of current economic development programs.

Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE KENNY YUKO
JANUARY 2010

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. Do you support a statewide ban on texting while driving?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

2. Would you support raising the speed limit for passenger vehicles on rural 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. Do you support limits on marketing by credit card companies on university and college campuses?

- 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. Would you support treatment over incarceration for juvenile offenders?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

7. Would you like to see an increase in the use of solar panels, wind turbines and other renewable energy system at schools and other government buildings?

- 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: _____



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**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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