



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,

Ohio and the nation are facing unprecedented economic times. These challenges are felt by families who watch their home values decline, businesses who can't secure a loan because of tightening credit markets, and individual Ohioans who are struggling to find work. Our job in the legislature is to find ways to ease those struggles that so many Ohioans are feeling.

Tough times mean tough decisions, both in putting together our household budget and for a state spending plan. The process has not been easy. But our mission in the Legislature is to do the best we can for the people of the state of Ohio.

We have worked to protect struggling Ohioans in a number of ways. With the foreclosure crisis still putting people out of their homes, we have recently passed two pieces of legislation that are designed to help.

One bill (House Bill 3) aims to minimize the loss that homeowners, lenders and communities continue to suffer in a foreclosure system that isn't set up to handle today's reality. It includes a 6 month moratorium on final foreclosure judgments (with conditions).

It also helps to protect the loss of investment dollars by maintaining home values and encouraging payment plans that guarantee a greater return than a sheriff sale. Homes that go to sale in Ohio typically recover between 20 and 60 cents on the dollar, as opposed to full recovery from a successful workout. This legislation truly seeks to protect every party in the mortgage process.

The House has also passed a bill that would protect renters when their landlord goes into foreclosure. Gone would be the days of people facing an eviction notice with no warning.

Our economy will get better, especially as the national picture improves. In the meantime, I will do my best to help Ohioans suffering now, and position Ohio for prosperity once things turn around.

If you have any thoughts, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

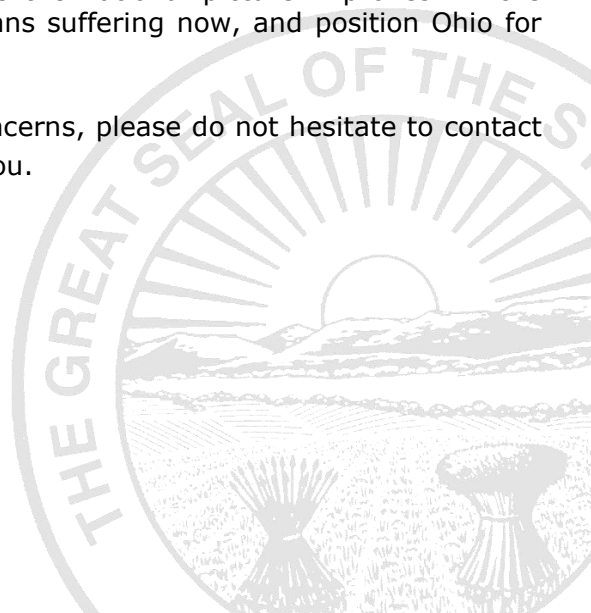
CONTACT

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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



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, 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

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!**

Creating Jobs High Priority for Ohio House

Initiatives Position State for Success When National Economy Rebounds

Ohio needs jobs, and the Ohio House is working to promote job growth to put Ohioans back to work. It's vital that we strengthen our economy to secure a brighter future for the 21st century and beyond.

Every day brings new headlines of job cuts and layoffs, and almost everyone is either personally affected or knows someone who has lost a job or is working fewer hours. But investing in our economy now means that as the national recession lifts, Ohio is in the right place to recover quickly and more efficiently.

By making smart choices today, we can make sure that Ohioans have the jobs and the skills needed to succeed in the new economy. This will mean growth now, and prosperity that can be sustained later.

One way to help Ohio businesses compete is by offering them tax credits to attract business and promote new job opportunities. Among those proposed by the Ohio House:

- **New Markets Tax Credit** (to encourage Ohio firms to sell their goods in places they haven't tried before)



- **Sporting Event Tax Credit** (to boost efforts to bring major events like the NCAA basketball tournament to Ohio)



- **Film Tax Credit** (to offer an incentive to movie companies to not only film here, but develop an industry of support staff and services in Ohio)



We can also help new companies grow in Ohio through the Ohio Venture Capital Authority. It encourages investment capital for firms in the seed or early stage of business development.

Loans and grants, too, can make the difference between a company failing or thriving. Among the programs: Micro Loan Program, Rapid Outreach Grants, and the Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program.

It's important that we invest in initiatives that make us ready to meet the demands of a 21st century economy. The fields of biotech and bioscience are going to be huge in the coming years, so a training program to prepare people for jobs in these areas now will pay big dividends in the future. And since people will always need to eat, agricultural research and education is important for this key sector of Ohio's economy.

Our economy is closely tied to the national recession, but the news isn't all grim. By investing in creating jobs now we can be in position for a strong rebound as the economy improves.

State Website Links Employers/Job Seekers

OhioMeansJobs.com

Seekers: Allows you to search all electronic job opportunities which include Ohio employers, national commercial job boards and niche industries. Post your resume for free.

Employers: Search for Ohio-based talent and those who want to relocate to Ohio, and post job opportunities cost-free.

State Library of Ohio Expands Services

Internet Tutorials Open Pathways to Enhanced Educational Opportunity



The State Library of Ohio is not just a depository of books anymore.

The Library also provides resources and services by taking advantage of technology.

One such program, called the "LearningExpress Library," gives

Ohioans the chance to gain proficiency in today's most popular computer software applications. Many Ohioans have benefited from the wide range of offerings — from licensing and certification in health care, education, civil service, and homeland security to job skills such as creating a resume, essay writing and honing interview techniques.

"These services can produce incredible results," said Ohio State Librarian Jo Budler. "Whether they help a student earn a scholarship to college or an adult pursue a secure and satisfying career, these programs can play a vital role in creating opportunities that may not have been available otherwise."

Understanding and becoming competent in using computer software is especially important as Ohio works to more aggressively compete in the global economy with better-educated and informed residents. A basic knowledge of widely-used computer software programs expands career opportunities for users while giving them a competitive edge in the job search and placement process.

The program can be accessed from any web-enabled computer in the library, computer lab, office or home. The computer software tutorials incorporated in the "LearningExpress Library" include instruction in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and

Access. The tutorials also include programs geared toward the use of Adobe Acrobat and Internet Explorer 5.0.

Other services that benefit Ohio residents include:

- Around-the-clock research help online through the Know-It-Now, Read-this-Now and Homework Help 24/7 reference service. You can access any of these free services by logging on using your Ohio zip code.
- Library services geared toward blind and physically handicapped residents through the "Talking Book Program."
- The "Ready to Read Initiative," which provides training for all of the Ohio Public Libraries and supports advocacy for early literacy for children and families. The program prides itself on making sure children are ready to read when they enter kindergarten.



**State
Library
of
Ohio**

Achieving success and expanding knowledge through these courses has implications for more than just the individual. At a time when the quality of education is of great

concern across the state, these programs offered by the State Library of Ohio can help our state build a national reputation as a leader in quality education.

Contacting the State Library of Ohio

274 E. First Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201
(614) 644-7061

www.library.ohio.gov

To Access Online Information on Test Prep Tutorials:

- 1.) Scroll down to the "Ohio Residents" heading
- 2.) Click on "LearningExpress Library – Test Prep and Tutorial"
- 3.) Choose from the menu of featured resources to find the test prep that best suits your needs.

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 and approved by the House, 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."

Creating an Energy Efficient Ohio *Ohio House Leads Efforts Toward Smart Solutions*

Energy efficiency is a hot topic across Ohio. It is important that we think outside the box to create smart energy solutions to reduce our usage and protect our environment for future generations.

The Ohio House has already made a strong statement in support of energy efficiency by voting to establish the Advanced Energy Resource Center at



Ohio University. The center will cultivate our state's green-collar economy by providing technical expertise to local governments looking to develop projects that incorporate advanced energy. It will also serve as a networking resource for local governments and advanced energy companies.

Legislators have also introduced H.B. 7, which requires any building constructed using state capital expenditures bill money to meet LEED certification. The LEED rating system and building certification are developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit coalition.

Obtaining LEED certification demonstrates that a building is environmentally friendly. Energy savings, improved indoor environmental quality and emissions reductions are some of the factors considered in the design and construction of a building.

There are both environmental and financial benefits to earning LEED certification. Achieving certification allows companies to take advantage of a number of state and local government incentives.

Education is also going green. The Ohio Schools Facility Commission oversees all construction projects for the state's public schools. In particular, they created The Energy Conservation Program to help schools districts make energy efficiency improvements. The districts can use the money they save on energy bills to pay for the building upgrades.

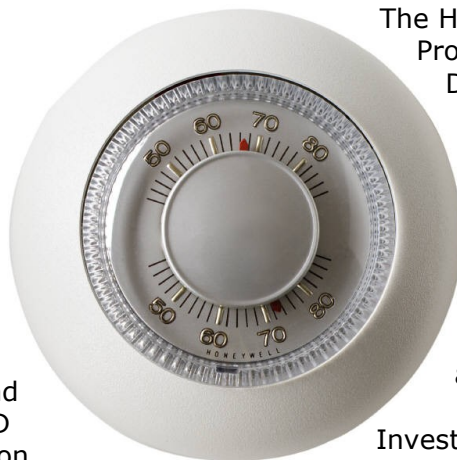
The bill lets school districts borrow money for construction without going to the ballot. This lets them save millions in utility bills and operating expenses at no additional costs to taxpayers.

Tips on How to Save Energy

Ohio is among the top ten energy users in the nation. Here are some ways you can conserve:

- **Turn down** your thermostat to 68° and you will see immediate results on your next bill. Each degree you lower your thermostat saves nearly 3% on the energy you use for heating.
- **Match** your energy use to what you need. Use free daylight when you can. Turn off lights, appliances and equipment when not in use. Install and use motion sensors, time of day controls, and programmable thermostats.

Courtesy Ohio Department of Development



The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) offered by the Ohio Department of Development helps Ohioans to reduce both their energy usage and utility bills. HWAP is available for free to residents who meet certain annual income levels. After an electrically-heated home has been "weatherized," it uses 13% less energy. That means lower bills, and fewer people needing payment assistance.

Investments in energy efficiency policies and programs have the benefit of saving Ohioans money, creating jobs, bolstering our economy, and creating a cleaner environment.