



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 summer rolls into fall, folks across Ohio get busier and busier. School has started, football season is in swing, and before we know it, Thanksgiving will have crept up on us.

Fall marks an uptick in activity at the Ohio House too, as we begin working on more legislation. I want to take a minute to share with you some priorities for the rest of this year.

The cornerstone of our democracy is the right of our citizens to cast their ballots. And it is the responsibility of those of us in government to make sure that system is fair, open and accurate.

We have made great strides in recent years. No longer in Ohio do we see the ridiculously long lines at the polls and the accusations of voter suppression that at one time marred our elections and made the state the target of national skepticism.

But there is more work to be done, and that is why, in the coming months, we will deliberate and vote on Ohio's Elections Enhancement Bill. The bill utilizes the broad consensus-building efforts led by Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner and enacts commonsense, necessary reforms.

Our goal is to ensure that Ohio's election process achieves the highest levels of openness, fairness, efficiency and integrity. Our citizens must have confidence in the system, and the laws that govern that system. They must know that their vote will count, without the taint of fraud, and that the results are accurate.

As I continue my work in Columbus and around our district, I hope you will find time to discuss with me your thoughts on these and any other issues.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

CONTACT

Columbus Office

07th 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

October 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, 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!**

Livestock Care Standards Board Created

Ohio House Plan Would Ensure the Safety and Availability of Ohio-Grown Food

When you go to the grocery, you want to be sure the food you buy is safe, and the livestock well-treated and free of disease. With bipartisan support, the Ohio House has voted to create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.



House Joint Resolution 2 creates the Board to determine and enforce guidelines for the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio. They would work to protect food safety and to provide locally produced food for Ohioans.

The legislation would amend the Ohio Constitution to create a thirteen member board comprised of family farmers, licensed veterinarians, Ohio consumers, humane societies, and other agricultural experts. The Board will have discretion to consider disease prevention, agricultural best management practices, food safety practices, and other protections for local food supplies.

The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board will actively work with the livestock community to ensure that proper farm management and animal care practices are maintained throughout the state.

In passing House Joint Resolution 2, the House is joined by



leaders of Ohio's agricultural community, including representatives of the state's commodity organizations (see below), individual farmers and other stakeholder groups, which have expressed their collective support for creating the Board.

For the past few months, Ohio farmers have been concerned about out-of-state efforts to ban modern food production and housing methods. They believe that could reduce the availability of food produced in Ohio, increase the risk of animal disease, and jeopardize food safety measures. The House wants to ensure that Ohioans remain in control of Ohio's laws and regulations that govern the care of livestock.

You will get a chance to vote on the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board issue on the ballot on November 3, 2009. If approved, it would take effect immediately.

Groups Supporting The Livestock Care Standards Board

Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Soybean Assn., Ohio Soybean Council, Ohio Corn Growers Assn., Ohio Poultry Assn., Ohio Livestock Coalition, Ohio Cattlemen's Assn., Ohio Pork Producers



State, County Agencies to Drop MR from MRDD

Removing "Mental Retardation" Eliminates Negative Connotation

The phrase "mental retardation" may be accurate in the medical community, but it's often used in ways that are not very sensitive. That's why the Ohio House of Representatives recently voted to remove the term "mental retardation" from the title of the state and county agencies that assist Ohioans who have developmental disabilities.

Governor Ted Strickland agreed, saying "respectful words are important" and he signed the idea into law. The name changes will be phased in through this fall.



More than 200 individuals with disabilities, activists, families, and state legislators recently rallied on the Statehouse lawn in support of the name change bill and other legislation.



"Mental retardation" often carries a negative connotation and is the basis for the hurtful slur "retard." Much like the terms "imbecile," "feeble-minded" and "idiot" were once widely accepted, we now have better terms to describe people living with developmental disabilities.

This new law is not intended to banish the words "mental retardation." Mental retardation is a clinical diagnosis of a type of developmental disability. The phrase will be removed, but the services offered by the state and county boards of developmental disabilities will remain the same.

Forty four states have already removed the term, and at least nine local boards changed their names long before this bill passed the Ohio House.

Many Ohioans living with developmental disabilities believe the phrase is offensive and wanted to see it erased. John Martin, Director of the state agency that is now known as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, said, "The passage of this bill is a testament to the many self advocates throughout the state who have spoken out and lead the efforts during the past year to effect this change. I salute their work."

Removing the "MR" from "MRDD" in Ohio is part of a national movement to change how people relate to those with mental disabilities. Special Olympics is leading an effort to eliminate what they call the R-word, "retard."

They point out that most people don't think of this word as hate speech, but that's exactly what it feels like to millions of people with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends.

The group Ohio Public Images, Inc. (OPI) is helping those in the developmental disabilities community, including Ohio's 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, with information and educational materials during the transition period.

Public Images has an awareness campaign called "Disable the Label." The group believes people's attitudes affect everyday life for those with developmental disabilities. They hope positive awareness efforts will bring knowledge and understanding.



Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE KENNY YUKO
OCTOBER 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, 07th District
Ohio House of Representatives
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