



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,

Amidst unprecedented economic times, the Ohio General Assembly has passed a balanced two-year state budget that will help our state recover from the national recession. It was a difficult process, but all parties worked tirelessly for a resolution. I am pleased that we crafted a budget that was approved by the House and Senate and signed by Governor Ted Strickland.

These are challenging and unique times. In this unpredictable economic climate, there are no easy answers. Families across Ohio are struggling, and the state has fewer resources available to meet greater needs. But we are preparing for a brighter tomorrow by prioritizing education and job creation – crucial components to position us for recovery once the national recession lifts.

The comprehensive education reform plan found in the budget will replace a broken funding system with one based on student needs. It focuses on evidence from successful schools around the country and incorporates the key elements of quality education. These include things like all-day kindergarten, smaller classes, improved teacher quality, and greater fiscal accountability for school districts. By investing in education, we will help prepare our children for the challenges of 21st century global economy.

The national recession has prompted some very tough decisions in the budget; however we were able to soften the impact to libraries by restoring two-thirds of the funds that were originally proposed to be cut. It is important to note that even after this difficult budget, Ohio's library system will remain the top state-funded library system per capita in the United States.

Health care coverage for Ohio families was also extended. The budget significantly lowers the amount an insurance company can charge a patient with a pre-existing condition so that more people can receive the care they need without devastating their pocketbooks.

We believe this budget supports Ohio and her citizens by leveraging our resources and creating opportunities for tomorrow. If you have ideas or suggestions for how to further strengthen Ohio please feel free to contact my office. Together we can ensure a brighter future for our state.

CONTACT

Columbus Office

7th District
77 South High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

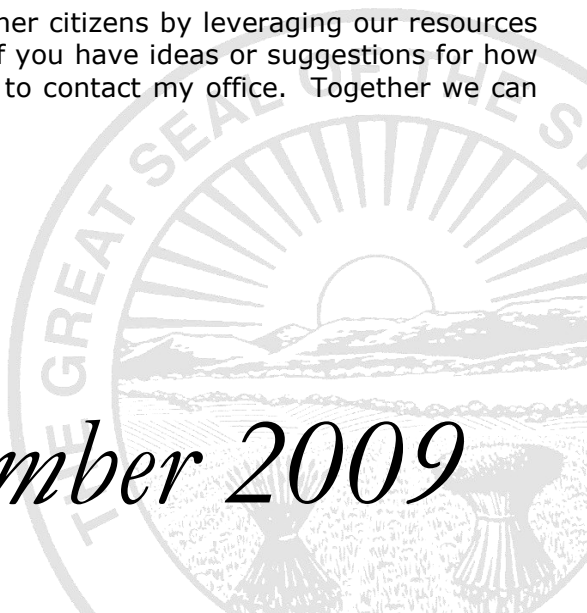
Phone: (614) 466-8012
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Or E-mail At:
district07@ohr.state.oh.us

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

September 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 Passes Balanced Budget

Investing in Ohio's Future through Job Creation and Educational Excellence



It was a difficult process, but Ohio now has a balanced state budget. This two-year framework positions Ohio for both a short- and long-term economic recovery because it invests

in job creation and education. Both of these important tools allow Ohio to leverage resources and create a brighter future.

We have protected Ohio's commitment to affordable college tuition by limiting potential tuition increases to just 3.5 percent. We have also made many painful and unpopular spending cuts, but we have done so in a way that reduces the size of government while still protecting our most vulnerable Ohioans.

The national economic downturn has hurt states all across the country. Ohio faced similar challenges but we were able to provide a balanced budget that reduces spending, protects vital services and prioritizes education and job creation to help move Ohio's economy forward.

Highlights of Budget Priorities

• **JOB CREATION AND MOVING OHIO FORWARD**

While maintaining vital services for many vulnerable Ohioans was our first priority, we are also prioritizing job creation. We cannot move Ohio forward without a keen focus on making sure our economy is growing. This budget provides incentives for job creation efforts such as the new markets tax credit to encourage investments into low income areas. Additional efforts include a film tax credit, a sporting event incentive, a technology investment tax credit and an expansion of the job creation and job retention tax credit. We have also renewed the Venture Capital Fund, which provides loans to start-up companies. This is especially important in a tight credit market. We have also supported the Rapid Outreach Grants program.

• **COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION REFORM**

Ohio's future is in our young people, and their future depends on the best possible schools. That is why this budget includes a comprehensive education reform plan to replace the current broken funding system with one based on student needs. It also begins modernizing the classroom for the twenty-first century and significantly strengthens financial accountability and teacher quality.

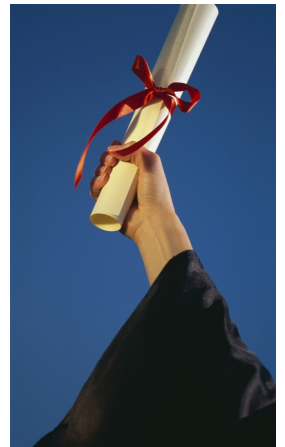
• **KEEPING COLLEGE TUITION AFFORDABLE**

Even under the strain of a difficult budget, Ohio will keep its commitment to affordable college tuition by capping tuition increases at 3.5 percent for the next two years. Improving access to a college education is critical for Ohio to prepare its students for the challenges of the 21st

century economy. Compared to annual tuition growth rates of approximately 10 percent in the previous decade, this 3.5 percent cap will keep our promise to provide affordable, high quality college education for Ohio's students.

• **MAINTAINING VITAL SERVICES IN A TOUGH ECONOMY**

Ohioans are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the national economic downturn. However, even under the strain of a very difficult budget, Ohio will preserve vital services for those who are most vulnerable. We have fought to restore funding for a variety of programs such as county child and adult protective services, Ohio's food banks, mental health services, Help Me Grow, and Kinship Care. We have also dramatically reduced the original cuts to public libraries. COBRA Healthcare coverage will also be available to the families of those who have lost their jobs.



**....A Balanced Budget
in a Tough National
Economy**

House Supports Military Members and Their Families

Governor Signs 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 the hardships of 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

Comprehensive Education Reform Plan Approved

Based on Students Needs; Funding System Constitutional



It has been more than a dozen years since Ohio's school funding system was declared unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court. Now, through House Bill 1, Ohio's Comprehensive Education Reform Plan will replace the state's broken school 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.

By investing in these proven education methods, Ohio will finally have a funding system that provides resources based on student needs, reduces reliance on local property tax and directs resources to the students with the greatest educational challenges.

Ohio's economy will succeed when Ohio's schools succeed. The better the education our young people receive, the better equipped they will be to compete in the 21st century economy. Their skills and leadership will be crucial for the future prosperity of all Ohioans, and we need to ensure they have the best possible teachers and tools to learn.

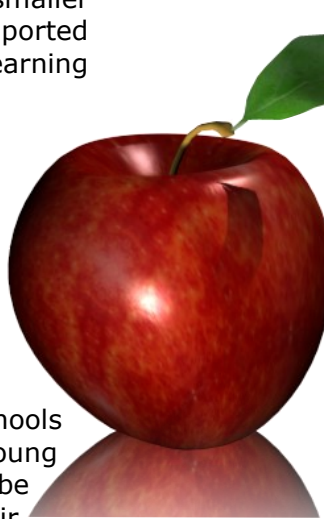
Ohio's Comprehensive Education Reform Plan

Replaces a Broken Funding System with One that Meets Every Student's Needs

- Provides resources to districts with the greatest educational challenges
- Lowers local taxpayer burden and increases the state's contribution
- Reduces the number of times schools will need voters to pass levies

Begins Modernizing Ohio's Classrooms for the 21st Century

- Directs resources to methods that help kids learn – smaller classes, better teachers, more learning time
- Replaces the Ohio Graduation Test with the ACT to promote college advancement
- Leverages technology to enhance learning and prepares students with the skills to compete in today's ever-changing, global economy



Strengthens Accountability & Improves Teacher Quality

- Establishes regular review of school district spending plans
- Develops a residency program and enhances professional development opportunities
- Strengthens licensing standards for principals and disciplinary guidelines for teachers

Additional Highlights

- Requires school districts to offer all-day kindergarten.
- Reduces the five excused calamity days to three calamity days for the 2010-2011 school year, requires the State Board of Education to offer recommendations on extending the school year.
- Develops a new high school assessment system to replace the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) that consists of (1) a nationally standardized college prep assessment (2) a series of end-of-course examinations, and (3) a senior project.



House Promotes Technology in Education Reform

2-Way Interactive Video Will Provide Access to AP, Foreign Language Courses for All



Technology has been used to bridge many distances in the past: it has taken man to the moon and moved travelers from coast to coast. The latest

technology bringing us closer together is video conferencing equipment. This technology can not only erase physical distance but can help close the educational opportunity gap in Ohio's public schools as well.

The Ohio House passed legislation that will provide all of Ohio's public High Schools with Advanced Placement and foreign language courses. House Bill 4 uses two-way interactive video along with internet to bring these classes to school districts that otherwise could not afford them.

The program, known as the Distance Learning Pilot Program, is funded through federal Enhancing Education Through Technology grants rather than state funds. These grants subsidize technology equipment and connection costs for schools and are directed towards areas with the greatest student need.

Ohio is well suited to take advantage of this program. All Ohio school buildings are connected to the internet. Currently, 72 percent of public school districts have a connection with sufficient bandwidth to use the conferencing equipment. Under the bill, funding for school districts that require internet upgrades will be completely covered for up to one year by the state. Costs will be modest considering the small number of schools needing the improvement.

The equipment itself brings certain advantages. The technology allows for real-time interaction so students can communicate with their teacher

exactly as they would in a traditional classroom setting. Questions can be answered immediately and discussion and debate can take place creating a learning environment that encourages the exchange of ideas.

These classes are an important part of ensuring that all Ohio students have access to a world-class education. Students who've acquired the skills of speaking a foreign language or problem solving on an advanced level will be in high demand in our increasingly interconnected and global marketplace.

Making this technology available across the state helps to level the educational playing field. Districts that could not otherwise afford to hire the staff needed to teach the courses will now be able to provide them for their students.

A stronger education system in Ohio will serve the state for years to come. Skilled workers will be in demand and employers will come to Ohio knowing they can find the talent they need to succeed. This technology can empower our state and our students.

Even though at the moment times are tough and money is tight, we cannot afford to lose our focus on education reform. Making use of this technology places Ohio at the forefront of education reform and positions our state as a leader in the global marketplace.



**THIS TECHNOLOGY CAN EMPOWER
OUR STATE AND OUR STUDENTS.**