



# 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,

These are challenging yet exciting times for Ohio. As we begin the 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, we move forward with a strengthened sense of purpose and responsibility to act with your best interests in mind.

My goals have not changed. I will continue to work tirelessly to grow our economy so Ohioans can get back to work in meaningful jobs. Education must be strengthened so all of our young people can access the opportunities they deserve. Our most vulnerable citizens must be protected as we work to keep Ohio moving forward.

Ohio's budget situation makes our task more difficult but not impossible. Over the next few months, my colleagues and I will be doing everything possible to develop a budget for the state of Ohio that is balanced, fair and compassionate. It needs to be a budget that acknowledges tough economic times while remaining sensible and sensitive to the needs of all Ohioans.

This recession has been hard on Ohio's working families. Our economy is beginning to turn the corner, but full recovery is not yet ours. As we look for ways to tighten government spending even further, we must also look for ways to balance the budget without doing economic harm to our citizens.

We will continue to focus on doing everything possible to help the economic recovery take hold in our state. With this recovery comes the opportunity for an even more prosperous Ohio.

In the previous General Assembly, we set the stage for job growth by encouraging the development of exciting high-tech innovations and new industries such as green energy. These are steps that will help make Ohio again the leader in the global marketplace while building upon our strong manufacturing base. We need to continue this momentum.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

## CONTACT

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Sincerely,

**Kenny Yuko**  
State Representative

# February 2011



## State Help Available For Decisions on Long Term Care

*State Ombudsman can help with selections and information on your rights*

Ohioans should expect excellence and choices in long-term care.

If you're like most Ohioans, at some point, you or a family member will need long-term care. In fact, seven out of 10 people over the age of 65 will require some long-term care services.

The good news is that long-term care is changing for the better and Ohio's state long-term care ombudsman is part of this positive movement. The state's long-term care ombudsman serves as the voice of Ohio consumers and advocates for quality care for individuals receiving home care, assisted living and nursing home care.

Ombudsmen are advocates who provide a voice to the needs and preferences of clients. Ombudsmen link residents with services or agencies, offer advice on selecting long-term care providers, inform consumers about their rights and provide information and assistance with benefits and insurance.

Ombudsmen do not "police" nursing homes and home health agencies. Instead, they work with providers, residents, their families and other representatives to resolve problems and concerns.

If you are in need of long-term care services, the state ombudsman suggests that you search for providers that advertise the types of services you are looking for. Ohio providers offer a large range of services from home-first programs to community living options.



There are many different approaches to care in the nursing home world – person-centered care, Eden, Green House, Small House. Lingo aside, what we're really talking about is creating a home full of choices wherever a consumer wants to live.

To find a provider that creates such an environment, expect excellence. Residents should be able to spend their day as they would have before they moved, by participating in activities such as gardening, reading, cooking or even bird watching.

Look for a provider that gives consumers meal choices and consistent assignment of staff. This allows staff to get to know the resident's likes and dislikes as well as form friendships. The provider should also engage those caretakers and the resident in care planning. The last thing you want when you visit a provider is to feel like you are visiting an institution.

Both the private sector and government organizations have joined together to help providers change the way they serve you by providing resources and education for nursing homes.

Many person-centered practices don't cost more; in fact, there is a business case for culture change, whether by making the home more attractive and increasing occupancy and revenue or by making operations more efficient and reducing staff turnover.

### **Who can call the Ombudsman Program?**

*Anyone may call the Ombudsman. There is no requirement to speak with another agency or the provider first.*

### **How does the Ombudsman Program work for you?**

*The Ombudsman handles complaints about long-term care services and serves as a liaison voicing the needs and concerns of the consumer to providers of long-term care.*

### **What should I do if I have a complaint?**

*First, you may wish to address your concern to the provider. If you are unable to solve the problem yourself, your regional ombudsman can help. Your call will be confidential, and they will not act without consulting you and involving you in the resolution process.*

**For more information:**

Call **1-800-282-1206**

## Film Tax Credit Brings Moviemakers, Jobs to Ohio

*Credit brings millions of dollars to Ohio*

An effort to encourage filmmakers to come to Ohio is paying off. First proposed by Democrats in the Ohio House, the Motion Picture Tax Credit offers incentives for producers to use Ohio workers and Ohio scenery in their movies.



The credit creates job opportunities for Ohioans, and generates revenue for the communities serving as film sets.

The first major film to utilize the Credit was the Twentieth Century Fox blockbuster "Unstoppable," starring Denzel Washington. A portion of the film was shot in the Ohio communities of Martins Ferry, Steubenville, and Bellaire.

The film, about an unmanned runaway train carrying toxic chemicals, was the first production to be awarded an Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, employing hundreds of Ohioans as part of the production crew and extras. Twentieth Century Fox extended the number of shooting days in Ohio due to the Motion Picture Tax Credit, worth up to \$3.8 million.

"We feel proud and honored to be the first film to qualify for the Ohio Tax Credit,"

said "Unstoppable" producer Eric McLeod. "With the outstanding local crew and overall community support, I can't think of a better place that could have made our production feel more at home."

"Unstoppable" spent roughly \$15 million in Ohio and employed more than 1,000 Ohio residents.

Three upcoming independent films from Nehst studios (Cleveland based company) were also approved for tax credits: "The Kid Who Only Hit Homers," which is based on a set of popular children's books; the horror sequel



"Strangeland 2;" and the Vivica Fox project "Cleopatra Smiles."

In all, 9 films awarded tax credits employed more than 3,785

people, and spent \$9.46 million in Ohio wages and estimated \$24.3 million to Ohio vendors and location fees.

To date, more than \$9 million in tax credits have been approved, with more than \$20 million still available for interested production companies in Fiscal Year 2011.

In order to be eligible for the tax credit, production companies must show reviewable progress to the Ohio Film Office within 90 days of receiving the notification letter. In addition, they will receive the tax credit only upon completion of production.

The Film Office takes, on average, 50 inquiries a week. These calls range from assistance in permitting to location scouting. Numerous location scouting trips have been logged and the state works closely with local governments to develop easy-to-use permitting programs.



## Ohio Film Office

For more information, visit  
[www.ohiofilmoffice.com](http://www.ohiofilmoffice.com)

## Ohio Has New Program to Help With Utility Payments

*PIPP Plus makes monthly bills more affordable*

The state has a new plan to help you make your winter utility payments. It's called PIPP Plus (Percentage of Income Plan), and it will make monthly payments more affordable on a year-round basis and provide incentives to participants in the program for regular, timely payments.



# PIPP PLUS

Under PIPP Plus, natural gas and electric customers will each pay \$10 or six percent of their gross monthly household income each month,

whichever is greater. Customers with all-electric homes will pay \$10 or 10 percent of their gross monthly household income.

PIPP Plus is available for customers of Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas providers whose gross yearly household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The program is run by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Department of Development.

It allows eligible customers to make affordable payments toward their utility bills while reducing old debt by making timely monthly payments.

Customers must verify their income with their local community action agency annually, as well as agree to participate in energy efficiency programs. Customers enrolled in the current PIPP program will automatically be enrolled in PIPP Plus.

When PIPP Plus payments are made on-time and in full, the remainder of that month's bill is waived, and customers will also receive a 1/24 credit toward any old debt. If a customer makes 24 consecutive payments, all of the arrearages will be eliminated.

Customers who fail to re-verify their income every 12 months risk being removed from the program.

PIPP Plus is designed to balance the hardships and concerns of those eligible for the program with that of all other ratepayers, many of whom are also struggling to make ends meet in this economy.

### More State Help is Available

More information about PIPP Plus and other utility assistance programs may be found at [www.winterheat.ohio.gov](http://www.winterheat.ohio.gov)

You'll find important information about:

Winter Reconnect Order – This PUCO order helps customers, regardless of income, who have been disconnected or threatened with disconnection to keep their utility service turned on.

HEAP - This federally funded program helps eligible low-income Ohioans meet the costs of home heating with a one time payment.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program - Qualifying households can make their house winter-proof by adding insulation, heating equipment repairs etc.



# Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE KENNY YUKO  
FEBRUARY 2011

*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. Are there any areas of state spending that should be protected from budget cuts?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

If so, list them:

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

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**3. Should Ohio abandon plans for a job-creating statewide passenger rail transportation system before studies on it are completed?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**4. Do you support state efforts against unscrupulous mortgage servicers who take advantage of Ohio homeowners?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**5. Should Ohio maintain a social service safety net to protect its most vulnerable citizens?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**6. Would you support eliminating the state income tax if it means cuts to vital public services such as police and fire protection and libraries?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**7. Do you support saving Ohio money by sending some non-violent offenders to community corrections facilities and programs instead of state prisons?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**8. Please list what you believe to be three of Ohio's biggest strengths:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Additional Comments:**

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*Please fold and return this form to me at the address listed on the other side.*

*If you would like to receive my e-newsletter and other legislation information, please provide your email address:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



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!**

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(PLEASE FILL IN YOUR ADDRESS)

PLACE STAMP  
**HERE**  
POST OFFICE  
WILL NOT  
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Ohio House of Representatives  
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