



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,

The national recession brought on by Wall Street greed has been tough for businesses and families all across the country. In Ohio, we are working to combat the effects of the recession by keeping Ohio's taxes low, providing incentives for businesses to create jobs now and investing in the high growth, high-tech industries of tomorrow.

Over the last four years, Ohioans have seen a 16.8 percent reduction in their state income taxes. The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council certified Ohio best in the Midwest and 11th nationally for small businesses. Ohio is now just one of two states that do not tax a business' personal property or its corporate profits. Additionally, Ohio's seniors have seen the largest property tax cut in Ohio history as a result of the expansion of the Homestead Property Tax Exemption.

In the House, we have passed a series of job-creating initiatives, such as the Venture Capital Fund, Rapid Outreach Grants, the Technology Investment Tax Credit, the Ohio Loan Fund and the Job Creation / Job Retention Tax Credit. We also created a series of new initiatives like the Sporting Events Incentive Grant, the New Markets Tax Credit and the Film Tax Credit, which has already created \$25 million in economic activity and 3,000 new jobs in Ohio.

I am also pleased that Ohio voters in May agreed to expand and extend the proven, job-creating Ohio Third Frontier Program. Third Frontier is a high-tech jobs program that invests in growing industries like advanced energy, transportation and logistics. It has provided a ten to one return on investment for taxpayers, and it created over 48,000 new jobs.

In addition, we have modernized Ohio's telecommunications laws and passed a Common-Sense Regulatory Reform Act to reduce over-burdensome rules and help small businesses.

I will continue my strong support for ways to strengthen Ohio's economy including further job-creation initiatives because we know these efforts are key to ensuring a brighter future for our families, our businesses and our state.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me. I always welcome your thoughts, concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

Kenny Yuko
State Representative

August 2010

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

Search Underway for Ohio Veterans

State says Many Vets Aren't Collecting Benefits They've Earned

If you are a veteran, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) is searching for you. You may be eligible for benefits and not even know it.

So, ODVS is reaching out with two simple messages:

- Anyone who wears or has ever worn a U.S. military uniform is a Veteran," and
- "Your service may be worth more than you think."

The department is asking Veterans to call 1-877-OHIO-VET to get connected to their County Veterans Service Office and their benefits. If you know veterans, please pass this number along to them.

These benefits may enable a Veteran to pay for higher education, purchase a new home or get help treating a medical condition. Ohio Veterans are eligible for these and a multitude of other benefits. The department's number one priority is identifying our Veterans, so they can get the benefits they have earned.

We don't know where they are, but we know where they've been.



If you are one of the more than 900,000 Ohioans who wears or has worn a U.S. military uniform, your service may be worth more than you think. Call 1-877-OHIO-VET to get connected to your benefits.

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Honors Civilian Service

Inductees Recognized for Impact on their Community after Military Life



The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame has inducted more than 890 veterans since its inception in 1992. Each year, an executive committee, made up of representatives from Ohio's veterans organizations, selects 20 inductees from applications received from across the state and nation.

Inductees are leaders in a variety of areas including business, entertainment and education. Most importantly though, they all have made significant impacts on their communities.

Inductees into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame served their country honorably in a branch of military service

and continued to serve their communities, state and nation after discharge.

The next class will be inducted in November, 2010.



Bringing Green Jobs and Green Energy to Ohio

The Ohio House is fighting to create jobs and position Ohio to lead tomorrow's economy

Here in Ohio, we are looking forward. We are looking past the national recession and positioning our state to not only recover but thrive by bringing jobs and businesses back within our borders.

Over the past year, the Ohio House passed initiatives to foster jobs, grow Ohio's small businesses and encourage investment in new and emerging industries across the state. Now, state Representatives are focusing their efforts on a powerful new tool that will attract the burgeoning wind and solar energy industry to Ohio while ensuring we create Ohio jobs.

Upon qualifying for the exemption, the facility must also make payments to local school districts and governments in lieu of taxes. These payments, which are based on the number of Ohio residents the project employs and the output of the facility, will ensure a steady stream of revenue for local school districts and governments and make Ohio competitive with states across the nation in bringing advanced energy facilities and jobs to our state.

Not only does the legislation bring green jobs here today, it ensures that we can sustain industry growth



The House has passed a green jobs bill that incentivizes companies to build their facilities in Ohio. The bill eliminates the tangible personal property tax for companies that commit to building their facilities on Ohio soil and employing our men and women. To qualify, projects must also promise to begin construction by or before January 1, 2012 and be up and running by the end of 2012.

A project's eligibility is dependent in part on employing Ohio workers. All projects, whether wind or solar, are required to use Ohio workers to make up at least 50 percent of their labor force.

down the road. Provisions in the bill support the education and training of tomorrow's renewable energy workforce. Large-scale wind and solar facilities who benefit from the tax exemption are required to partner with an Ohio college or university to give those enrolled in those institutions the resources they need to secure a successful future in the renewable energy industry.

The legislation will position Ohio to lead the economy of tomorrow while helping us meet our alternative energy portfolio goals set forth in legislation passed during the previous General Assembly. We are truly building a brighter and more prosperous future through innovation.

All projects, whether wind or solar, are required to use Ohio workers to make up at least 50 percent of their labor force.

State Board Approves Curriculum for Student Success *Stronger course standards ensure Ohio students are poised to be leaders*



As students head back to class this fall, they will be welcomed by teachers and principals, friends and teammates, and stronger state curriculum standards in their favorite courses.

success in college or the workforce," said State Board of Education President Deborah Cain.

Ohio was one of 48 states that helped to develop the common-core standards. Education stakeholders across the state including teachers, principals, parents and business leaders submitted proposals for possible curriculum standards and design. Ohio's proposal was considered by the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers in the creation of the final program.

The Ohio House has made a firm commitment to ensuring that students across the state are poised to be leaders in their careers and in their communities.

State lawmakers fought to provide equal access to success for all Ohio students by reforming the way our state funds education. They also identified the elements of a world-class education and directed funding in a way that supports these key factors. The state's new education funding system modernizes classrooms, ensures teacher quality and establishes new operating standards for school districts to make sure our schools are reaching the high standards set for them.



In addition to bolstering student success, the adoption of the common-core standards strengthens Ohio's second-round application for the federal education funds under the Race to the Top program. Ohio was selected as one of the top ten finalists among states who applied for the first round of funds. Only two states, Delaware and Tennessee, were chosen to receive the award the first time around. Ohio could secure \$400 million in additional education funding if selected as a winner in the second round.

The approval of these education standards is one more way Ohio is working to open the doors of opportunity to all students. We know that giving our students the tools they need to succeed will help build a brighter future for all of us.

The Ohio Board of Education has set the ball in motion on another key ingredient of student success. Education officials have developed and signed off on new education curriculum standards that will guarantee Ohio students are receiving a top of the line education and ensure this education is competitive across the nation.

Top state education officials have approved common-core standards in English-language arts, mathematics, social studies and science that will foster a cohesive, high-quality system of education throughout the state and across the nation.

"Through the adoption of these standards, the State Board has affirmed its commitment to ensure all students graduate high school with the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to be well prepared for



Legislative Survey

REPRESENTATIVE KENNY YUKO
AUGUST 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 cutting the cost of higher education by requiring college textbook publishers to offer electronic versions, or "e-books"?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

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

- 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. Do you support enhanced regulation of the towing industry in Ohio to prevent "rogue towers" from gouging consumers?

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

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

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

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 my e-newsletter and other legislation information, please provide your email address:

Name _____

E Mail Address _____



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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!**

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(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
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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