



## ***RESPONSIVE SOLUTIONS FOR OHIOANS***

### **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 128TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### ***CARING FOR OUR VETERANS***

##### **BIPARTISAN VETERANS' BONUS RESOLUTION (Pillich, Pryor)**

Ohio's servicemen and women have laid down their lives to protect us, and we are proposing legislation that pays proper gratitude and respect for that. Since the Civil War, Ohio has provided bonuses and benefits to our veterans, honoring the men and women who served in both World Wars, as well as the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. This proposal continues that tradition by providing the same benefits to returning soldiers from the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts. It will make effective use of state resources by leveraging bonds.

#### ***PROTECTING HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS***

##### **HOME FORECLOSURE PREVENTION BILL (Foley, Driehaus)**

Ohio has been ravaged by foreclosures. Roughly one of every eight Ohio homeowners was significantly behind in mortgage payments or in foreclosure at the end of September 2008. Ohio's foreclosure rate ranked 7th highest nationally in 2008. The Home Foreclosure Prevention Bill will protect homeowners by taking measures such as establishing longer notification requirements and providing homeowners an alternative to eviction, like the ability to rent until their home is sold. The foreclosure crisis affects us all; our neighbors are in trouble and our neighborhoods are being depleted. We must act now to ease Ohio families' distress.

##### **RENTER'S PROTECTION ACT (Celeste, Foley)**

Effects of this foreclosure crisis are expansive, and Ohioans need fast action in response. This bill aims to add protection for renters caught up in foreclosures. The Renter's Protection Act requires landlords to notify all current tenants if the property they are renting is in foreclosure or under threat of foreclosure.

#### ***INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR EDUCATION***

##### **DISTANCE LEARNING INITIATIVE (Phillips, Garrison)**

Every Ohio student should have access to classes that prepare them for the global economy. When children do not have that opportunity, their futures suffer, and we all lose. Too often, schools do not have the resources to offer these advanced classes. We're offering one solution: the Distance Learning Pilot Program. The program will require several education

agencies to work together to offer three AP courses held via teleconferencing equipment to every public high school in the state beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. Advancing our education system is a realistic goal that we can address with simple, step-by-step measures such as this bill.

## ***PROMOTING AN ENERGY EFFICIENT FUTURE***

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION (Harris, Pillich)**

To move Ohio into the future, we cannot adhere to outdated and outmoded standards of doing business. We will make a strong statement in support of energy efficiency by introducing legislation that requires any building built using state capital bill money to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, as developed by the United States Green Building Council.

### **OHIO ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER (Phillips)**

Job creation is a top priority of this assembly. To sustain long-term growth in Ohio, we must aggressively advance our “green-collar” industry goals by all means available to us. This bill creates an Energy Resource Center at Ohio University’s Voinovich School and makes an appropriation from the Ohio Department of Development Advanced Energy Fund. The center will provide research and tools for Ohioans to make efficiency gains a reality across the state.

## ***PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN***

### **AUTISM PARITY BILL (Garland, Celeste)**

One in 150 individuals born today is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and yet insurance coverage remains left out of too many health insurance plans. This reality forces many Ohio families to choose between going into debt or forsaking crucial services. The Autism Parity Bill will lift some of that burden by prohibiting insurance companies from excluding coverage for Autism.

### **PROHIBIT MARKETING OF CREDIT CARDS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES (Lundy, Schneider)**

We must give Ohioans the safeguards they need to protect their assets and financial future. In these trying economic times, it is especially important that our young people are not subject to unscrupulous practices. A recent report published by the Ohio Credit Union League says more students drop out of college as a result of bad credit than academic failure. Now more than ever, Ohio needs a well-educated workforce to turn our economy around. The bill will ban credit card companies from holding marketing activities at Ohio public colleges and universities. Improving education and protecting Ohioans meet under the umbrella of this critical bill.

### **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PROTECTION BILL (Brown)**

Teen violence is too often underreported. We must get tough on perpetrators of teen violence if our young people are going to feel safe enough to report these crimes. Currently, a gap in Ohio law means that juvenile victims of dating violence do not have the ability to obtain protection orders in court against juvenile perpetrators. This bill corrects that and provides our young people with the measures they need to be safe.

#### NO SEXUAL PREDATORS IN SCHOOLS (Garrison, Harris)

At every turn, we must ensure the safety of our younger and more vulnerable citizens. This legislation bans the most serious Tier III sex offenders who previously victimized a child aged 15 or younger from schools, pre-schools and child day care facilities in Ohio. Any offender who is at those facilities will face a fifth degree felony, which carries a sentence of between six to 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT REMOVAL POWERS OF SEXUAL PREDATORS (Heard, Harris)

This legislation extends the restrictions on sex offender and child-victim offender residency to also include registered sex offenders and registered child victim offenders. Additionally, it makes a violation of the residency restrictions a misdemeanor of the first degree and permits courts to issue orders requiring offenders to vacate the property.

### ***ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT***

#### TRANSITION ACCOUNT LEGISLATION (Okey, Dodd)

Transparency and accountability are central requirements for holding elected officials to the highest standards. It only makes sense that transition accounts used by elected officials in funding future transitions be open and honest. This legislation prohibits the personal use of transition accounts and caps contributions for all officeholders-elect.

### ***FILM TAX CREDIT***

#### FILM TAX CREDIT (Schneider, Patton)

We must use every tool at our disposal to help bring industry, jobs, and revenue into Ohio. That is why the Film Tax Credit is an especially important part of our tax incentive package. It would serve as a direct incentive to the film industry to bring their productions and jobs here and, at the same time, would promote the state of Ohio. Film producers who come to Ohio would receive 25 cents back on every dollar they spend, with the amount capped at \$10 million per year. This would be a powerful tool for revitalizing Ohio. We will propose this Tax Credit as a bill of its own.