



Jay Goyal
State Representative



June 2009

Dear Friends,

These difficult economic times have created real challenges for us all. Since the beginning of my second term as the State Representative from the 73rd House District in Ohio, I have been attempting to meet these challenges head on with my fellow legislators, the Governor and all of our state departments.

When the new term began in January, I was honored to be elected Majority Whip of the 128th Ohio General Assembly. I was appointed vice chair of the Faith-based Initiatives Committee and was appointed to the Veteran Affairs Committee, Finance and Appropriations Committee as well as the Economic Development Committee. I was also asked to serve on the Agriculture and Development subcommittee. These assignments provide me with a broad perspective on the work of the Assembly enabling me to better represent my constituents.

This newsletter will be the first in a series to keep you better informed of my efforts to represent you. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and to provide me with feedback on the contents. In all of my work, I keep the good of our great state at the forefront. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay Goyal
Ohio House of Representatives

State of Ohio Budget



With a potential budget deficit of \$10 billion, I have been working diligently with my fellow legislators to format a budget that will make the best use of the resources available without making deep cuts to the programs essential to Ohioans. We have been proactive in having state departments economize and streamline their operations by cutting spending, have tapped the state's rainy day fund, and are utilizing federal stimulus dollars.

Education Reform

The education reforms in the biennial budget shift the burden of school funding from local property taxes to the state. The implications for this change reach beyond school doors into the local economy. I have long noted that any investment into education is an investment in our future economy and future prosperity.

Education reforms which will be phased in over ten years include all day kindergarten, replacing the Ohio Graduation Test with the ACT, special efforts to decrease dropout rates and close achievement gaps. [For more specifics you can visit the Ohio Department of Education website.](#)

Higher Education is also a priority to our economic health. I have supported the "Seniors to Sophomores" program which enables high school seniors to acquire college credits. I have also pushed for a continuation of the tuition freeze at our four year state colleges for an additional year with a limit of 3.5% on any increase the following year and for our two year state colleges to continue the tuition freeze for another two years

Job Development Efforts - Stop the "Brain Drain"

Looking toward the future, I have sponsored a unique bill to help Ohio retain some of our best and brightest – those college graduates with degrees in science, technology, engineering or math.



House Bill 123 will provide a non-refundable income tax credit to anyone earning a degree in these key fields. The credit could be claimed over a ten year period and allows a carryover of the unused credits to ensuing years. I am confident that this incentive will increase our retention and thereby provide the skilled, creative workforce we need to be competitive in the global economy.

Additionally, to help create the jobs for these graduates, I have sponsored House Bill 140. This bill will encourage entrepreneurial projects at our colleges and universities to enter the free market system and create new businesses and jobs.

I have also worked with our Department of Development and Board of Regents to design and implement an extensive internship program for college students in Ohio. The state will partner with private sector employers by helping to fund internships for students. These internships provide students with real job experience and offer the employer the opportunity to try out students and learn from their youth and creativity.

Health Care Reform

The health of our citizens is paramount during these times of stress. I have been working with the governor and the legislature to increase access to health care. Efforts are underway to enact reforms to health care which will result in over 110,000 additional Ohioans receiving coverage.



These efforts include expanding dependent child coverage up to age 29, extending the state tax deduction for employer sponsored coverage to all family and dependent coverage, reforming Ohio's individual open enrollment programs, requiring employers to offer to uninsured employees the opportunity to purchase coverage with pre-tax dollars and extending Ohio's mini-COBRA program from 6 to 12 months.

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