



May 2011

Dear Friend,

In this edition of my newsletter, I am providing you some information that is critical to the future of Ohio. As you are aware, the passage of Senate Bill 5 is being challenged by a referendum effort across the state. This is truly democracy in action as thousands of voters engage in circulating petitions to allow the electorate to voice their opinions on the effects that SB5 has on our public employees - teachers, police officers, prison workers, firefighters, etc.

I am also including information on biennial budget bill recently passed by the Ohio House. This bill threatens our most vulnerable citizens and will add to the loss of jobs in the state.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information of these topics or if you would like to share your opinion with me. I am always interested in knowing your thoughts and I welcome your ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Goyal".

Jay Goyal, Ohio House of Representatives

Referendum Effort Launched Against SB 5

Senate Bill 5 entitled "The Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law" makes changes to laws concerning public employment including collective bargaining, salary schedules and compensation, layoff procedures, and leave. The bill was promoted by the Governor as a cost saving measure. Supporters stated that public employees are overpaid and their salaries needed to be brought in line with the private

sector. However, a recent Rutgers University study found Ohio public employees earn 6 % less on a yearly basis than their peers in the private sector. They earn 3.5% less on an hourly basis. For example, the average OAPSE (Ohio Association of Public School Employees) member makes \$24,000 a year and retirees average pensions of \$900 a month. Public employees do not pay into or receive Social Security.

Also, Ohio is 44th of the 50 states in per capita spending on government workers. State employees have taken a pay freeze five times in nine years. In the last contract, state employees voluntarily took furloughs and made other financial sacrifices that saved \$250 million in wages and an additional \$100 in health care costs.

SB 5 is opposed by the policemen, firefighters, teachers, and many others in Ohio as it drastically restricts the ability of the public unions to negotiate for the working conditions and benefits of their members. Immediately after the governor signed the bill on March 31, 2011, a statewide effort was launched to allow the citizens of Ohio to vote on the provisions of this bill. This effort, spearheaded by a coalition of labor and other allies, must collect 231,149 signatures by June 30 for the Referendum to appear on the November 8 ballot.

The referendum effort has launched a website entitled [WeAreOhio](http://WeAreOhio.com). Over 10,000 persons have volunteered throughout the state to circulate petitions and there are locations in every county in the state where petitions can be signed. This website provides information on how to volunteer or where to find a petition to sign.



Town Hall Features Budget

Approximately 60 north central Ohio residents gathered at the Mansfield Library on April 27 to participate in a Town Hall Meeting with State Rep. Jay Goyal. The open forum focused on the biennial budget currently under development in the Ohio Legislature. Several agency directors including Duanna Patton of the District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Joseph Trolan of the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and Joseph Palmer of the Mansfield Richland County Library participated in the event.

State Rep. Goyal presented the budget and his concerns then answered questions from the audience. Questions were on a wide variety of topics including the cuts to education and the public schools, the decrease in funding to social services and issues concerning Senate Bill 5.



Town Hall forums are a continuing effort of State Rep. Goyal to stay connected to the citizens of the district. He has held such forums annually since first taking office in 2007.

Concerns Over Biennial Budget Bill

State Representative Jay P. Goyal (D-Mansfield) released the following statement regarding the passage of House Bill 153 by the Ohio House of Representatives:

“As north central Ohioans struggle to recover from the recession, this budget continues to devastate the middle class. Public education, local governments and libraries take huge cuts - Mansfield City Schools is losing over \$5 million alone. In particular, health care for our elderly, treatment for the mentally ill and protective services for abused and neglected children are absolutely devastated. Gov. John Kasich is balancing the budget on the backs of the middle class and the most vulnerable and fragile amongst us.”

Republicans in the legislature continue to insist that the draconian cuts are necessary. However, State Rep. Goyal notes that the deficit is actually much lower than the \$8 billion cited by them. A recent report from the Office of Budget and Management says Ohio currently has an \$840 million surplus with the current budget. "If this trend continues it's likely that we're going to end the year with a \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion surplus in this current fiscal year," Goyal said.

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