



Monthly Advocacy Check-in

May 2024

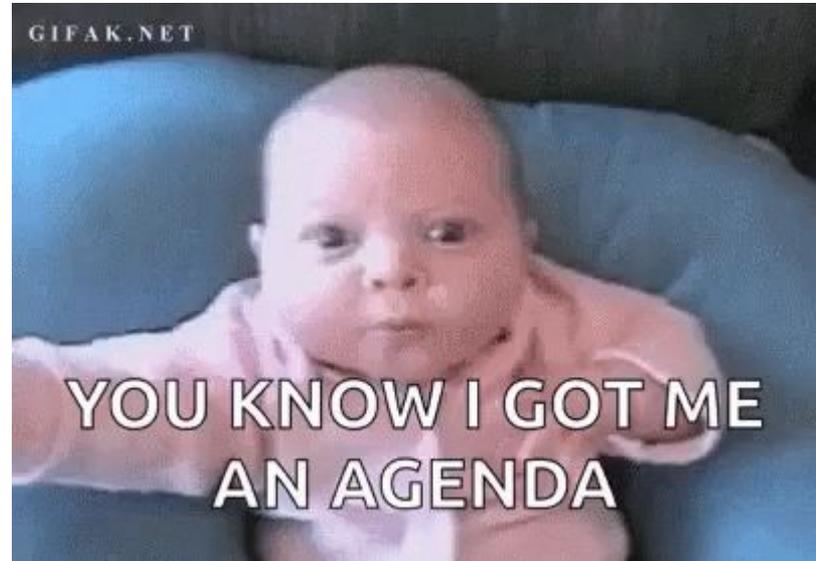
A few topics for our conversation

SB 240 - Feed them with Paperwork Act

Farm Bill -

Housing Policy -

Gerrymandering update!



SB 240 Sponsored Testimony received.

1. **Imposes a federal one size fits all approach in Ohio.**

- a. **Takes away the Governor's authority to suspend the harsh 3-month time limit on SNAP benefits for communities experiencing high unemployment.** See Section 5101.546(A)
- b. **Takes away Ohio's ability to identify vulnerable groups of Ohioans, beyond those included under federal law, who need SNAP for more than 3 months out of every 3 years.** See Section 5101.546(B).

2. **Adds bureaucracy**

- a. **Increases paperwork burdens on county caseworkers and Medicaid recipients.** See Section 5163.51(A)(1)-(2). Prevents the use of self-attestation of eligibility criteria in Medicaid, even as a last resort because documentation doesn't exist (e.g. employment status, household composition).
- b. **Makes it harder for hospitals to get paid for life-saving care they provide to low-income patients who qualify for Medicaid but aren't currently enrolled.** See Section 5163.51(A)(1)-(2).
- c. **Slows down state efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of application and renewal processes for work supports, including food assistance and child care.** See Section 5101.95. Requires (ODJFS) to submit any waiver requests or plan amendments to the Ohio legislature for review 30 days before they can be submitted to the federal government, even for minor changes to increase government efficiency.

SB 240 continued...

3. Doesn't understand how courts work...

- a. **Takes SNAP benefits away from non-custodial parents unable to comply with court-ordered child support.** See Section 5101.548. This could be counterintuitive, as the non-custodial parent could be struggling with food insecurity with their second family and this could be directly connected to their inability to pay child support. Child support agencies have a wide range of enforcement remedies short of sanctioning food benefits.
- b. **Creates additional barriers to access food assistance for Ohioans who are working to rebuild their lives after serving a prison sentence for a drug felony.** See Section 5101.84. Even after completing all court-related requirements (which may involve drug testing), SNAP recipients with a prior drug felony conviction would be subject to an additional three years of random drug testing.



Farm Bill



- Past Due.
- Likely to receive markup in the House by end of the month.
- Unsure if it will move to the floor before their break
- Continuing Resolution ends this fall.

House: Chair Thompson (PA-15)

- **Conservation** - use Inflation Reduction Act dollars to help strengthen 'conservation' programs. (*Right now only about 1/3 of submissions get funded IRA dollars already will increase that to 2/3*).
- **SNAP**: Reverse Biden era changes to Thrifty Food Plan.
- **Crop Insurance**: More gov't funding for crop insurance.
- **Healthy food**: "Robust Engagement with specialty crop producers"

Senate: Chair Stabenow (D-MI)

- **Conservation**: Use new money to bolster conservation programs & keep IRA money on agricultural climate mitigation.
- **SNAP**: Protect \$30 billion (over 10yrs) that allows SNAP to respond to inflation.
- **Crop Insurance**: Create 'index plans' to help small farmers access crop insurance.
- **Healthy food**: Create new crop insurance plans for 'specialty crops'

Housing

Affordability is defined as 30% of income. As we look at different affordability issues we need housing at all tiers.

Extremely low income (ELI) = 0-30% Area Median Income (AMI)

Very Low Income (VLI)= 31-50% AMI

Low income(LI)= 51-80% AMI

Moderate Income =81-100% AMI

If the median income is \$63,000, moderate income housing would be affordable for family making \$51,000-\$63,000 a year. (30% of their income - \$1,275 a month for housing).

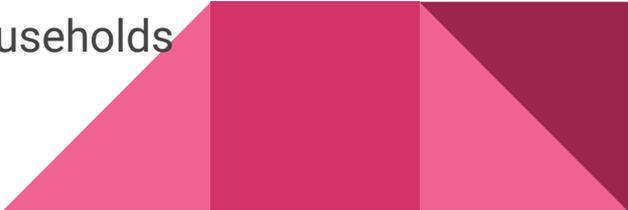


House legislation

Up to \$200 million fund. Local gov'ts apply to OHFA if they are 'pro-housing jurisdiction.' Must include at least three of these.

- *Have a process to increase rate of permits reviews and grants for housing development by at least 20%*
 - *Have a pre-approval process for expedited reviews and granting of permits for developers*
 - *Subsidize or decrease cost of water and sewer hookups for major projects*
 - *Develop “ready to build” sites, such as handling acquisition and rezoning so the developer only needs to finance and build*
 - *Eliminate or reduce parking requirements*
 - *Develop a housing plan that tracks the needs, gaps and potential strategies for housing for the next decade*
 - *Have policies that preserve existing moderate and low-income housing*
 - *Allow for accessory dwelling units*
 - *Have quadplex housing in at least 75% of available land in the jurisdiction*
 - *Reduce at least 50% of existing single-family zoning*
 - *Have density bonuses for developers if they provide a certain amount of low-income housing*
 - *Incentivize modular housing*
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Senate Select Committee

1. Strengthen data and resource sharing.
 2. Technical assistance for zoning overhaul
 3. Update code for renters
 4. Shift tax credit funds to middle income, high demand job areas.
 5. Out of state LLC's (separate legislation by Sen. Blessing)
 6. Build off of successes of Welcome Home Ohio Program.
 7. Add legislators to OHFA
 8. Add legislator to Housing Trust Fund
 9. Messaging campaign. (YIMBY)
 10. Local Gov't grants
 11. Property tax Review
 12. Expand all Ohio Future Fund
 13. Use Medicaid waiver to access funds to help stabilize households
 14. Review housing tax policy.
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What's New in your community?

Top priorities, other topics?

