

Left to right: Lilian White, MD, Brandon Petrovich, Umida Burkanova, Sydney Ryan, Sam Zern, Jen Johns, Pooja Khaira, MD, John Bastulli, MD, Senator Nickie Antonio, Marie Schaefer, MD, Olivia Safady, MD, Kelly Kimball, MD, Val Yanoska, Pete Jordanides, and Jessica Tomazic, MD

A Capital Achievement

On Wednesday June 12, the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) was recognized on the Ohio Senate Floor for its remarkable achievement of 200 years of organized medicine in the State of Ohio. We were invited to the Senate Floor by Ohio Senate Minority Leader Senator Nickie J. Antonio of Lakewood.

AMCNO staff, accompanied by board members Drs. Marie Schaefer, Lilian White and Jessica Tomazic, Past President Dr. John Bastulli, and Future Leaders Council members Dr. Olivia Safady, Dr. Kelly Kimball, Dr. Pooja Khaira, Pete Jordanides, Brandon Petrovich, and Umida Burkanova received the award on the Senate Floor. In her remarks, Senator Antonio said that Academy physicians were critical to addressing dangerous pandemics and orchestrating immunization campaigns against polio in the 1950s and 60s and rubella in the 1970s. She praised the AMCNO's education and advocacy efforts for COVID-19 vaccination.

She also shared that we were the first physicians in Ohio to report infant mortality statistics, we worked with the American Red Cross to establish the first area blood bank, and we established the first Poison Control Line in Cleveland—one of the world's first Poison Control Lines. Finally, she mentioned, that in addition to being the oldest medical society in Ohio, the AMCNO is also the oldest professional society in Ohio.

(Continued on next page)

200 Years of Organized Medicine in Ohio

(Continued from page 1)

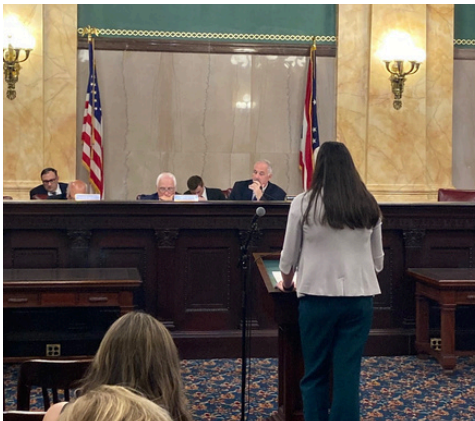
The recognition was another key moment in this year's bicentennial events.

Not letting an opportunity go to waste to advocate for our physician members, AMCNO staff and members stayed in Columbus to meet with legislators on our policy priorities, including legislation on prior authorization reforms, biomarker testing, off-label prescribing, and scope expansions. Future Leaders Council Members joined these meetings as part of their curriculum aimed at learning advocacy and policy, and AMCNO President Dr. Schaefer testified before the Ohio Senate Health Committee on the off-label prescribing legislation (see pg. 7).

We thank all the AMCNO members who traveled to Columbus with us for accepting the award and witnessing this historic achievement on behalf of our 200 year history of organized medicine.



Rep. Dr. Anita Somani (D-11) with Future Leaders Council Members Pete Jordanides, Brandon Petrovich, and Umida Burkhanova.



AMCNO President Marie Schaefer, MD testifying on HB 73, off-label prescribing legislation.,



Rep. Melanie Miller (R-67) with AMCNO staff and Future Leaders Council members.



Left to right: Umida Burkhanova, Brandon Petrovich, Pete Jordanides, Jessica Tomazic, MD, Marie Schaefer, MD, Lilian White, MD, Olivia Safady, MD, Pooja Khaira, MD, Kelly Kimball, MD



Left to right: Sydney Ryan, Lilian White, MD, Umida Burkhanova, Jessica Tomazic, MD, Pete Jordanides, Jen Johns, Marie Schaefer, MD, John Bastulli, MD, Val Yanoska, Olivia Safady, MD, Pooja Khaira, MD, Kelly Kimball, MD, Sam Zern, Brandon Petrovich



Future Leaders Council members and NEOMED students Pete Jordanides, Umida Burkhanova, and Brandon Petrovich met with Rep. Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland) to discuss AMCNO priorities as part of the Academy's visit to the statehouse.



Future Leaders Council members and NEOMED students Pete Jordanides, Umida Burkhanova, and Brandon Petrovich met with Rep. Rachel Baker, RN (D-Cincinnati) to discuss AMCNO priorities alongside AMCNO Executive Director Jen Johns.


AMCNO: 200 Years of Medicine in Cleveland



The exhibit features historical artifacts, photographs, film, and the story of Juno the Transparent Woman, a later version of the “Camp Transparent Woman,” debuted by the Academy at the 1936 Great Lakes Exposition. The exhibit also features the story of Sabin Oral Sundays (SOS), including a film on the program. Finally, the exhibit features a wall dedicated to 9 of our key leaders, including the four founders of Cleveland Clinic, who were all past presidents of the AMCNO.

Visit the Exhibit:

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- Outpatient surgery (ENT, Orthopedics, Gastroenterology)
- Perioperative surgical home
- Radiology
- Urgent care



AMCNO's 2024 Women in Medicine Wine Night was held September 12th at CLE Urban Winery. Thanks to all who attended!

2024 Host Committee:
Kristin Englund, MD
Mary Frances Haerr, MD
Nancy Kurfess - Johnson, MD
Mary LaPlante, MD
Roopa Thakur, MD
Lilian White, MD



AMCNO President Testifies on Off-Label Prescribing in Columbus

On June 12, AMCNO President Dr. Marie Schaefer, a Family and Sports Medicine physician, testified against HB 73, legislation on off-label prescribing. The legislation was introduced in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic when patients wanted access to Ivermectin and other medications that their treating physicians were unwilling to prescribe in the hospital setting.

While AMCNO generally supports off-label prescribing as an appropriate practice, we believe this legislation interferes with hospital-based care, and the ability of a physician to manage the care of a patient for whom they are responsible. Specifically, the legislation would require the hospitalist to allow any physician the patient chooses to receive hospital credentials and prescribe for medicines of the patients choosing, putting that physician and care team at risk of not meeting appropriate safety and quality checks, and the patient at risk for drug interactions and other harmful side effects.

In her testimony, Dr. Schaefer pointed out, “As a primary care physician, I know my patients well. However, when their clinical condition changes to the point that they require hospital treatment, I hand off their care to the hospital care team. The hospital team is now in charge as they are in the hospital with my patient actively evaluating, managing, re-evaluating, de-escalating care, etc. as their clinical condition changes.” She went on to add, “As it currently stands, I am already able to discuss, with my patient’s permission, their care plan with the hospital team. I can advocate for my patient to the other physician if there is something extra that I think needs to be done. However, I acknowledge that it is ultimately the decision of the physician that is leading the hospital care team.”

The committee heard from a long list of opponents to this legislation including representatives from the State Medical and Pharmacy Boards who were concerned about the ability to enforce safety and quality measures if this legislation became law, as well as physicians from MetroHealth, Summa Health, Akron Children's Hospital, Dayton Children's Hospital, and UC Health who shared similar concerns to Dr. Schaefer in terms of the potential danger to patients. AMCNO will continue to work against this legislation when the legislature returns from summer recess.



AMCNO President Marie Schaefer, MD testifying on HB 73, off-label prescribing Legislation, in Columbus.


Legislature Moves on AMCNO Priorities Ahead of Summer Recess

Before breaking for the summer, the Ohio state legislature moved several pieces of legislation, including some AMCNO priority bills. Most notably, HB 24 on Biomarker Testing, passed the House, and now moves to the Senate. The AMCNO testified on this legislation last year, which would require insurance companies to cover biomarker testing, to help identify the most appropriate therapies for patients. The AMCNO will continue to work with coalition partners led by the American Cancer Society, to see this bill passed in the Senate.

Governor DeWine also signed into law HB 47, supported by the AMCNO, which will require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be placed in all public and private schools in Ohio.

Additionally, the Senate Health Committee held a hearing on SB 129, which expands scope of practice for optometrists. The committee heard from several physicians opposed to the legislation, from the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) and the Ohio Ophthalmology Association (OOA). AMCNO submitted written opposition testimony from Board Member and NOMS ophthalmologist Dr. Michael Shaughnessy.

The Senate Health Committee also held a hearing on HB 73, Off-Label Prescribing (see pg. 7). The legislature is expected to stay out of session until after the November election. AMCNO will continue to keep members updated on legislative movement on these priorities when the legislature returns to session.



AMCNO VOLUNTEER NIGHT

SEPT 26, 6 - 8 PM

Join us as we sort and pack medical supplies to support healthcare providers around the world at MedWish Headquarters! It's amazing what you can do in just two hours.



Email us today to register for this exciting volunteer opportunity.

academyofmed@amcno.org

Legislative Committee Meets to Determine Positions on New Legislation

On July 18, the AMCNO Legislative Committee met to discuss new bills moving through Ohio’s Statehouse. The meeting was attended by 20 members of the Academy, who discussed each bill and its potential impacts on the practice of medicine and voted to determine the AMCNO’s stance on the legislation. The Legislative Committee is open to all members of the AMCNO who wish to weigh in on the organization’s public policy priorities. Sign up to join online at www.amcno.org/amcno-committees.

STATE LEGISLATION

Bill Number	Subject	Position
SB 60: License Certified Mental Health Assistants	Creates a new mental health provider type, Certified Mental Health Assistants, that practices with physician supervision agreements. The CMHA cannot make initial diagnoses but is able to prescribe certain drugs and treatments.	Actively oppose. The committee is concerned about expanding prescription powers to a new type of provider that exists nowhere else.
HB 545: Regulate the Practice of Midwives	Creates licensure for certified midwives and licensed midwives, two paths of midwifery that are currently not recognized under Ohio law. Presently certified nurse-midwives, a type of advanced practice registered nurses, are licensed by the Ohio Board of Nursing.	Oppose. The committee fears this will dilute the practice of certified nurse-midwives who currently provide high quality care.
HB 536: Make Seat Belt and Booster Seat Violations a Primary Offense	Makes violation of seat belt laws a primary rather than secondary offense, meaning law enforcement officers may issue tickets solely for violation of the primary offense.	Support. The AMCNO has a long history of supporting seat belt laws.
HB 509: Apply Prescription Drug Rebates to Cost-Sharing Requirements	Requires health plans to calculate cost-sharing amounts for drugs based on the price of the drug after all rebates have been applied to the original cost.	Monitoring. The bill was introduced shortly before the summer recess.
HB 7: Enact the Strong Foundations Act	Makes appropriations for several prenatal, pregnancy, maternal and early childhood programs.	Actively support. The bill captures many of the AMCNO’s maternal health priorities.
HB 356: Enact the Health Cardiac Monitoring Act	Makes provisions for youth athletic cardiac screening processes.	AMCNO to provide technical assistance. The committee previously opposed the bill on the grounds of some of its specifics, but hopes to work with lawmakers directly to address concerns.



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7

NOVEMBER

OU HERITAGE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

16

NOVEMBER

CWRU - ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

16

JANUARY

NEOMED

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

REGISTER:
[AMCNO.ORG/EVENTS](https://amcno.org/events)

Contact Val Yanoska with any questions:
vyanoska@amcno.org



Groundwork Ohio Listening Tour Makes Stop at MetroHealth

This spring and summer, Groundwork Ohio, a statewide policy and advocacy group focused on early childhood, held listening sessions across the state. The purpose of these community conversations throughout Ohio was to engage families, early childhood professionals, maternal health experts, local government officials, and statewide policymakers about the challenges facing our state's youngest residents.

The Cuyahoga County stop took place at MetroHealth hospital's main campus on June 18, where former MetroHealth CEO Dr. Airica Steed, welcomed the attendees and kicked off the conversation. During the opening remarks, it was noted that there are 70,878 children under the age of 5 in Cuyahoga County, and 27.9% are living in poverty. Additionally, only 35% of children in Cuyahoga County are demonstrating kindergarten readiness.

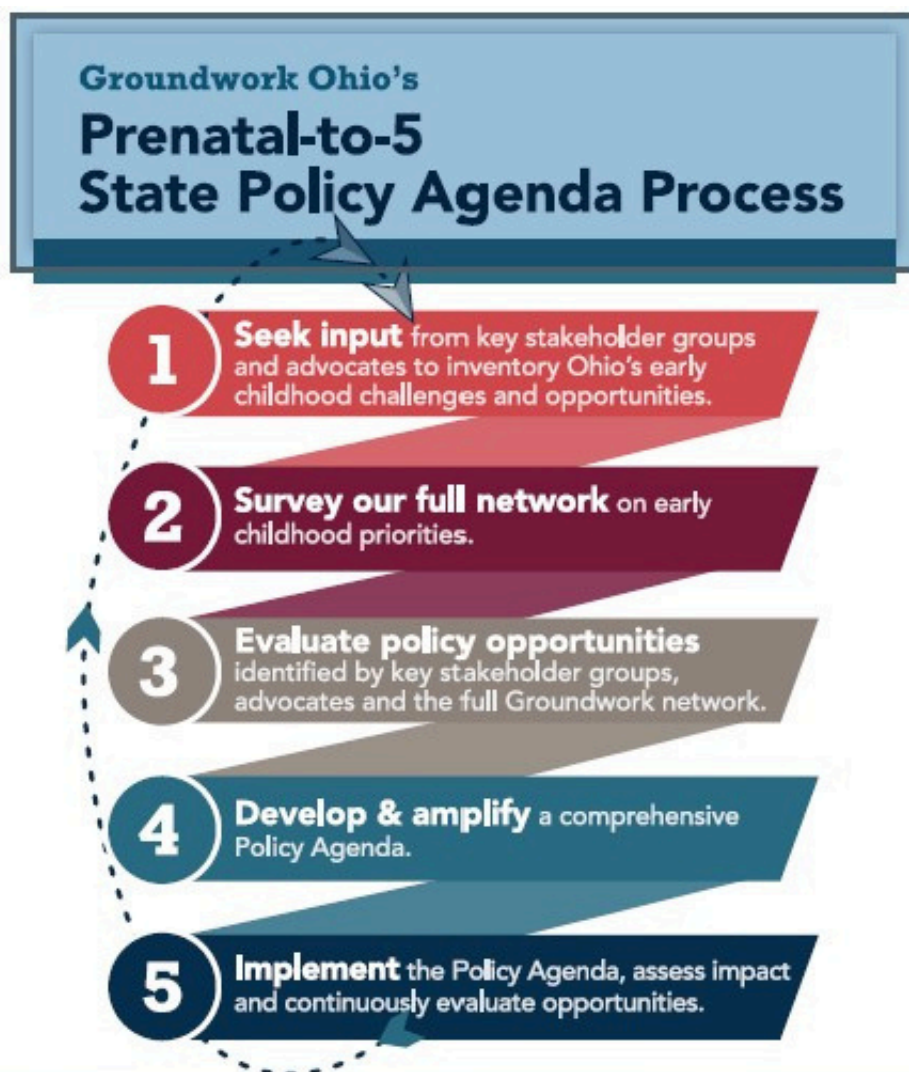
The morning's first panel was focused on health care, specifically on maternal and infant health, and featured panelists AMCNO member and MetroHealth physician Dr. Kelly Gibson, Division for Maternal & Fetal Medicine and Associate Director of Obstetric Informatics, Jazmin Long, President & CEO, Birthing Beautiful Communities, AMCNO member and MetroHealth physician Jessica Phippen, MD, Maternal Fetal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, and Angela Newman-White, Executive Director, First Year Cleveland.

The panelists discussed many of the challenges being faced by our youngest children, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school readiness, the increased social isolation faced by children and families, and the impact to education when children were distance learning.

Angela Newman-White also reinforced that in the infant mortality space, there is still a need for more providers, and that we cannot meet the current capacity of our families. Dr. Gibson also brought up the need for paid leave and coverage of maternity care services to aid these populations. Jazmin Long reiterated the need for more providers, especially nurses, to engage directly with these families and build relationships. She also mentioned having so many traveling nurses impacts the care of these families.

Finally, Dr. Gibson spoke to the promise of using telehealth to better monitor at-risk mothers for pre-eclampsia, and Dr. Phippen mentioned the need to approach patients with non-judgment, and to help these vulnerable patients better navigate the health care system.

AMCNO's educational arm, the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) has been a supporter of Groundwork's work in the past, and AMCNO staff plan to participate in the Infant Vitality Columbus Advocacy Day on September 17th. You can download the Road Show policy document [here](#).



NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN

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ELECTION '24:

AMCNO Guide to the Candidates

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) is pleased to provide our members with a guide to the federal and state candidates in the Nov. 5th, 2024 General Election, and where those candidates stand on select AMCNO priorities.

The AMCNO is a nonpartisan organization and does not endorse candidates.

This guide is aimed at exploring the health-related positions of the candidates for federal and state-level offices in the AMCNO footprint. The candidate positions included in this guide are related to the AMCNO's identified priorities and are not exhaustive.

Explore the full guide at: amcno.org/2024-election-guide

Are you Election Day ready?



Register to vote, update your registration, request your absentee ballot or find your polling place & **make your plan to vote.**

VOTEOHIO.GOV

AMCNO Priority: Fighting back against the insurance industry

At the state and federal level, the AMCNO consistently works on legislation that will expand coverage of and access to the procedures and treatments that patients need. The AMCNO has **supported** the following legislation:

Federal

- **H.R. 2407** - Medicare coverage and payment for multi-cancer early detection screening

State:

- **H.B. 24** - Require biomarker testing coverage, a critical tool in cancer and other illness treatment
- **H.B. 130** - Prior authorization "Gold Card" to exempt providers from certain prior authorization requirements

AMCNO Priority: Championing the best public health practices

The AMCNO has, throughout its history, been an advocate for vaccinations and the best practices of public health. At the state level, the AMCNO has fought against anti-vaccine efforts and in favor of improving immunization rates.

Legislation AMCNO **opposes**:

- **H.B. 73** - Would allow patients to receive medications not necessarily medically indicated for them, exposing them to potential complications against medical advice
- **HB 319** - Would require employers treat unvaccinated employees the same as vaccinated, making health care settings unable to mitigate risk to patients
- (previous assembly) **H.B. 248** - Prohibits mandatory vaccinations
- (previous assembly) **H.B. 435** - Prohibiting COVID-19 vaccine requirements

AMCNO Priority: Protecting the physician-patient relationship

Fundamentally, the AMCNO believes that protecting the doctor-patient relationship is fundamental to the highest quality practice of medicine. As such, the AMCNO was proud to support the constitutional amendment to protect abortion and reproductive rights in 2023 (Issue 1) and stands in opposition to attacks on transgender people's access to adequate health care. The AMCNO is continuing to monitor legal cases regarding both of these issues.



President of the United States

U.S. Senate

**Vice President
Kamala Harris (D)**

**Fmr. President
Donald Trump (R)**

**Jill Stein
(Green)**

**Sen. Sherrod
Brown (D)**

**Bernie
Moreno (R)**

Kamala Harris currently serves as the Vice President of the United States. She was previously the California Attorney General.

Health policy positions:

- Strengthening the Affordable Care Act
- Lowering health insurance premiums
- Restoring abortion rights
- As AG, fought hospital consolidation
- Remove most medical debt from credit reports
- Expand the \$35/month insulin cap to all Americans, not just Medicare
- Accelerate Medicare drug price negotiations

Running mate: Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota.

Donald Trump served as U.S. President from 2016-2020.

Health policy positions:

- Tried to repeal ACA
- Repeal attempt included cuts to Medicaid
- Implemented the Transparency in Coverage Rule
- His Supreme Court appointees helped overturn Roe v. Wade
- Barred abortion providers from Title X
- Began process to leave the World Health Organization
- Eliminated nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people under the ACA

Running mate: JD Vance, U.S. Senator from Ohio

Jill Stein is a practicing internal medicine physician and long-time Green Party candidate for state and federal offices.

Health policy positions:

- Implement Medicare for all as a precursor to an NHS-style public health system
- Cancel all medical debt
- Restore and advance reproductive rights
- Rebuild pandemic response
- Take pharmaceutical industry into public ownership
- Expand public funding for research

Running mate: Butch Ware, UC Santa Barbara professor

Sherrod Brown is the incumbent and has held the seat since 2007.

Health policy positions:

- Voted for and continues to defend ACA
- Introduced legislation to streamline prior authorizations in Medicare Advantage
- Supported the 2023 Reproductive Freedom Amendment
- Succeeded in passing the FEND Off Fentanyl Act to expand sanctions on drug trafficking
- Lowered drug prices as part of the Inflation Reduction Act
- Endorsed by reproductive rights groups

Bernie Moreno was the owner of a network of car dealerships. He previously served on MetroHealth's Board of Trustees and resigned in 2021.

Health policy positions:

- Donated to the campaign against Ohio's Reproductive Freedom Amendment
- Supports a federal, 15-week abortion ban (previously ran on a "no exceptions" platform)
- Supports restriction health services for trans children in Ohio
- Has said the ACA is not about affordability, and suggested that markets may be better for health



State Supreme Court

State Supreme Court

State Supreme Court

Lisa Forbes (D)

Dan Hawkins (R)

Melody Stewart (D)

Joseph Deters (R)

Michael Donnelly (D)

Megan Shanahan (R)

Cuyahoga County appeals court judge
Has served on various boards in Cuyahoga County, including the Center for Families and Children, Circle Health and El Barrio
Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio and Nurses for America

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas judge
Member of the Federalist Society
Has stated an intention to "keep politics out of the courtroom"
Endorsed by the Ohio State Medical Association PAC

Incumbent, first elected to Supreme Court in 2018
Aims to improve transparency and accountability on the bench
Authored a concurring opinion in Jones v. Cleveland Clinic Foundation that aligned with the AMCNO's amicus brief filed for that case, supporting a physician defendant
Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio

Appointed in January 2023 with no prior judicial experience
As Hamilton County prosecutor, was the named defendant in the case against Ohio's "heartbeat" law, in which the AMCNO filed an amicus brief
Aided in the establishment of the Hamilton County Drug Treatment and Recovery Court, the first drug court in the state
Endorsed by the Ohio State Medical Association PAC

Incumbent, originally elected in 2018
Rejected efforts made by opposition to keep the Reproductive Freedom amendment off the ballot in 2023
From 2010-2017, was one of five judges on Cuyahoga County's Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities Court
Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio

Currently serves in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas
Former assistant prosecutor for Butler County and Hamilton County, and prosecutor for Mt. Healthy Mayor's Court
Federalist Society member
Previously endorsed by Cincinnati Right to Life (anti-abortion group)



U.S. House District 4

U.S. House District 5

U.S. House District 6

Tamie Wilson (D)

Jim Jordan (R)

Keith Mundy (D)

Bob Latta (R)

Michael Kripchak (D)

Michael Rulli (R)

Previously ran for the seat in 2022
Runs a life-coaching business
Believes in reproductive freedom
Aims to address the mental health crisis
Wants to expand affordable healthcare

Incumbent, has held the role since 2007
One of the 'architects' of the 2013 government shutdown over not wanting to fund ACA
Held hearings against gender-affirming care
Opposed vaccine mandates

Owns a legal documents research and delivery business
Supports Medicare for All
Supports abortion rights
Supports decriminalization of drug possession as harm reduction in order to treat addiction

Incumbent, has held the seat since 2007
Anti-abortion, introduced legislation to prohibit new medications and further regulate current ones
Introduced legislation to temporarily provide licensing reciprocity for interstate mental health care telehealth

Former Air Force service member, actor
Supports reproductive rights and the Equal Rights Amendment
Supports Medicare for All
Wants to advance medtech research, connection Cleveland & other delegations for collaboration

Former state senator, won special election for Congress in June 2024
Opposed Ohio's 2023 Reproductive Freedom Amendment
Cosponsored SB 22, giving the legislature authority and oversight over public health orders (AMCNO opposed the bill)



U.S. House District 7

U.S. House District 9

U.S. House District 11

Matthew Diemer (D)

Max Miller (R)

Marcy Kaptur (D)

Derek Merrin (R)

Shontel Brown (D)

Alan Rapoport (R)

Author, podcast producer and 2022 congressional candidate
Campaigned for Ohio's Reproductive Freedom Amendment, supports national protections
Supported Gov. DeWine's veto of anti-trans legislation

Incumbent, former Trump aide
Cosponsored anti-abortion legislation
Cosponsored bill to prohibit gender-affirming care for minors
Cosponsored H.R. 2407
Cosponsored bill to require certain prostate cancer screenings

Incumbent, has served in Congress since 1983
Introduced legislation to ensure continuity of health care for military children
Voted to support the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Enhancement Act
Mixed record on abortion

Ohio state representative
Sponsored a bill against mandatory masking
Led the six-week abortion ban as House Health Committee Chair
Successfully pushed an amendment that gave the state jurisdiction in lead abatement over localities

Incumbent, has served since 2021
Introduced legislation to authorize CMS to support hospital mental health innovation
Introduced bill to promote uterine fibroid treatment progress
Advocate for reproductive rights

Former mayor of Cleveland Heights
Supports the Supreme Court's overturn of Roe v. Wade and does not support having any uniform federal standard for abortion



U.S. House District 13

U.S. House District 14

Emilia Sykes (D)

Kevin Coughlin (R)

Brian Kenderes (D)

David Joyce (R)

Incumbent, former state representative
Introduced bill to allow counselors and marriage and family therapists to bill Medicare
Cosponsor on H.R. 2407
Supports investments in NIH, SAMHSA, CSC
Helped create the Ohio Black Maternal Health Council

Business owner, former state senator
Authored the Prompt Pay Law, creating timelines for claims payment
Touted that he had cosponsored or voted for every abortion restriction allowable during his term
Wants to pursue entitlement reform, specifically Social Security and Medicaid

Previously ran a write-in campaign in 2022
Was recently sentenced to 30 days in jail for a felony conviction for filing a false voter registration

Incumbent, has held the seat since 2013
Introduced bipartisan Stop Nurse Shortages Act
Introduced legislation to end vaccine requirements for Head Start teachers
Cosponsor on H.R. 2407
Anti abortion, except for rape, incest, life-saving

For the complete guide including Statehouse races, go online to amcno.org/2024-election-guide

Surgeon General declares firearm violence a public health crisis, calls on health community

On June 25, the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy declared firearm violence in America a public health crisis.

The issuance was the first on the topic to come from the Office of the Surgeon General, recognizing what so many have already come to know: gun safety is a public health issue.

In a [40-page report](#) following the declaration, the Surgeon General outlined the scope of firearm injury and death. In 2022, 48,204 people died from firearm-related injuries. Of these, 4,603 were people aged 1-19, making firearms the leading cause of death for children and adolescents, over motor vehicle deaths, poisoning, cancer, suffocation, congenital anomalies, and others.

“As a doctor, I’ve seen the consequences of firearm violence up close in the lives of the patients that I’ve cared for over the years,” Dr. Murthy said in a video announcing the advisory. “These are moms and dads, sons and daughters, all of whom were robbed of their physical and mental health by senseless acts of violence.”

This crisis does not impact all of the United States equally. Black Americans disproportionately endured the highest age-adjusted firearm homicide rates. White individuals over the age of 45 had the highest rate of firearm suicide. Among people under 45, American Indian or Alaska Native people had the highest rate of firearm suicide. Veterans also have had disproportionately high rates of firearm suicide compared to non-veteran populations.

As these statistics indicate, suicide is one of the main drivers behind the increase in firearm fatalities in recent years. In 2022, 56.1% of all firearm deaths were from suicide. Over the last decade, these increases in firearm related suicide rates have been particularly staggering among children and young adults, with a 45% increase for 15-24 year olds and a 68% increase for children aged 10-14.

Utilizing a public health approach to gun violence emphasizes reducing harm and changing the external factors that have contributed to the current crisis.

Physicians and other health providers are uniquely poised to make a difference in this space, particularly by sharing safe storage messaging with patients. Resources like the [BulletPoints Project](#), developed by the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis, provides clinical tools to help prevent firearm injury, and since 2015 [the American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio Chapter’s Store It Safe program](#) has helped healthcare providers learn how to keep youth safe from unintentional firearm deaths and suicide by firearm.

As part of its Bicentennial year, the AMCNO, in recognition of its long history of public health work, has convened a coalition of health professionals, hospitals, public health officials, community organizations and other critical partners to work together on this issue of gun violence. If you are interested in joining this coalition, email Sam Zern at szern@amcno.org.



 SZERN@AMCNO.ORG

Advocacy in Motion: AMCNO Member to Run NYC Marathon for Alzheimer's Awareness

When AMCNO member and former Future Leader Dr. Kelly Kimball decided to go into dermatology, it was after first taking time to seriously consider a career in neurology. Much of her undergraduate research experience was in pharmacology and biochemistry, focusing on Alzheimer's disease. Her interest in the disease stemmed from personal experience – several family members had dealt with the degenerative disorder, which fueled her passion for the area.

She ultimately decided to instead pursue a path in dermatology, and Dr. Kimball is now in her second year of dermatology residency at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

“As I've learned throughout my involvement in on the Future Leaders Council, and other various things I've done in advocacy for patients, you can be in medicine and be an advocate for something that you're not necessarily in that field for,” Kimball said.

Plus, she's found she's never too far from the disease that first pushed her into medicine. While seeing a patient for skin cancer, Dr. Kimball said he disclosed that he'd also been recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and may not remember his follow-up appointments. For her, it was a reminder that medicine is not isolated to each specialty.

“While I may be treating him for his skin cancer, he's also got so many other things going on,” Dr. Kimball said. “... With him disclosing that information, I was able to put a note in his chart that this is a patient who we might want to send more frequent reminders to, we might want to call him a few more times for his follow up appointment. So it's just another unique way that I can use my experience to advocate for my patients, you know, inside and outside of my specialty.”

Now, she's taking her advocacy for Alzheimer's disease awareness even further.

Following her father's recent Alzheimer's diagnosis, and after reflecting on just how many patients she had been admitting to the hospital for complications related to Alzheimer's and dementia, Dr. Kimball wanted to do something to raise awareness – and funding – for research. She reached out to the National Alzheimer's Association and was selected to join the Alzheimer's Association Team for the New York City Marathon on Nov. 3, 2024, to help the organization raise awareness and money for clinical trials.

“My dad also was a runner too, before all of this started happening with the Alzheimer's diagnosis,” Dr. Kimball said. “It also kind of feels, in a way, that I'm able to give back to him by doing something that he loves to do as well.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as many as 6.7 million Americans were living with Alzheimer's disease in 2023, a number projected to nearly triple to 14 million by 2060. The disease mostly affects people over the age of 65, but younger-onset Alzheimer's disease can affect people in their 40s and 50s, like Dr. Kimball's father.



As Dr. Kimball trains for the marathon, she is also fundraising ahead of the event, and donations can be made [online](#).

“I always say that it is an honor to be able to choose when you feel discomfort, because there are people who wake up every day and they don't have the luxury of choosing when they feel discomfort or when they have struggles, and that makes me think about a lot of the patients that I've taken care of with Alzheimer's disease or with any disease in general.”



- Find Resources: communityresourcefinder.org
- Find Clinical Trials: alzheimers.gov/clinical-trials
- Find Local Help: aging.ohio.gov/about-us/who-we-are/area-agencies-on-aging

Early death in Ohio remains high, HPIO reports

Ohioans between the ages of 15 and 64 are dying at a much higher rate than they were 15 years ago, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio reported as part of their 2024 Health Value Dashboard.

The leading causes of these deaths are unintentional injuries (including overdoses), chronic liver disease, homicide, suicide and chronic lower respiratory diseases.

“These deaths are largely preventable, and they have a tremendous impact on Ohio families and communities and there are evidenced based policies available that can drive improvement,” Hailey Akha, the Vice President of Operations and Strategy at HPIO, said during a [webinar](#) in late July.

According to the HPIO data, there has been a 32% increase in the annual number of deaths of working age Ohioans from 2007 to 2022. Had annual deaths remained constant since 2007, 66,637 fewer working age Ohioans would have died.

Moreover, the causes of the deaths themselves have changed over time. Unintentional injuries, including overdoses and motor vehicle crashes, increased the 113% over the last 15 years among the leading causes of death. Only cancer has decreased as a leading cause of working-age death, by 14% since 2007.

Many of the drivers of early death are influenced by social determinants of health, including housing, employment, education and transportation, in addition to the influences of health behaviors, clinical care, and the physical environment.

Akha noted that early death is exacerbated for Black Ohioans due to historical and systemic racism. The rate of unintentional injury death – the leading cause of early death in the state – was 1.4 times worse for working age Black Ohioans compared to white Ohioans, and homicide was 15.5 times worse for Black Ohioans.

Still, the HPIO webinar emphasized that there are preventable evidence-based policies available to reduce the causes of early death and to improve the underlying factors that drive the current rates.

The full webinar, as well as the complete 2024 Health Value Dashboard and topic-specific reports are available online at: healthpolicyohio.org.

RECOMENDATIONS

1

Improving access to naloxone by expanding distribution programs and increasing the funding for syringe services programs and drug checking technology.

Preventing tobacco and alcohol addiction by establishing state level retailer licensing to prevent clusters and limit youth access, implementing marketing restrictions on products that are attractive to children and adolescents and increasing prices by increasing taxes.

2

3

Implementing community-based violence prevention programs and reducing the access of lethal means like firearms by promoting safe storage and by implementing mandatory waiting periods for possession of the firearm after purchase.

New Strategies to Improve Vax Conversations as Childhood Immunization Rates Dip

With every back to school season comes a renewed need to talk with families about their child's vaccination schedule. Childhood immunization conversations are especially relevant in Ohio this year, following a reported dip in the percentage of kindergarteners that met all requirements for the 2023-2024 school year.

Over the summer, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff hosted a press conference on the trend, noting that this is not just happening in Ohio, but around the country.

“This comes on the heels of a rebound in rates between 21-22 and 22-23, which was really the first school year that we emerged from the pandemic,” Dr. Vanderhoff said. “We were hopeful that rates would continue to rebound and perhaps get back soon to pre-pandemic levels, which were close to 90 percent, but that just hasn't happened.”

At a childhood immunization summit hosted by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Dr. David Karas, a pediatrician with Akron Children's Pediatrics in Wadsworth, noted that the number of Ohio kindergarteners with nonmedical exemptions to childhood vaccines was also on the rise.

In 2023-2024, 4 percent of kindergarteners reported a reason of conscience or religious exemption to vaccinations, an increase from the 2019-2020 rate of 2.6 percent. Ohio's rate is also higher than the national average of religious exemptions, which was 3.2 percent for the 2023-2024 school year.

During his presentation, Dr. Karas emphasized that while anti-vaccination or vaccine hesitancy trends are continuing to rise, there is still trust between families and their primary health care providers. He noted that vaccine hesitancy has been around as long as vaccines themselves, and the best way to overcome it is through trust.

Using that trusting relationship to have better conversations about vaccines was the main topic of the AAP's summit, which brought together physicians, pharmacists and public health professionals from across the state to discuss strategies to improve childhood vaccination access and uptake.

A common theme throughout the summit was the need to reframe public and interpersonal conversations about vaccine hesitancy. Julie Sweetland, PhD, senior advisor at the FrameWorks Institute, presented the organization's toolkits to help boost childhood vaccine rates. During her presentation, she noted that framing conversations around the collective good, emphasizing the benefits and rewards of vaccines versus just protection from disease, and using metaphors are all valuable ways to improve the conversation.

One strategy tested by the FrameWorks Institute is a literacy metaphor. The group recommends that providers talk to patients about vaccinations similarly to how children learn to read – that the vaccine is a text that helps the body practice reading and comprehension.

“By focusing on the process of gaining literacy and of vaccination, the metaphor builds people's understanding of how vaccines work over time, rather than in one instant, and helps reduce an overemphasis on the risks of a single shot. Instead, the metaphor positions the body as the “reader” that responds to the “text” of the vaccine to productively learn about a virus over time,” the FrameWorks toolkit says.

Dr. Karas recommended a presumptive delivery strategy, which assumes that parents will choose to vaccinate, and listen with genuine curiosity and empathy if a parent has hesitations or questions. Paternalism and arguing, he said, will not work, but rather keeping in mind that both provider and parent are trying to find the best solution for a child they care about.

For more resources on reframing childhood vaccination conversations, explore the [FrameWorks toolkit](#).



FrameWorks
Toolkit





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