

SENATOR SHIRLEY SMITH
STATEHOUSE NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2011

PROFILES IN THE DISTRICT

CLEVELAND HEALTH & TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR

Cleveland has been a center for technology and healthcare for years, driven by major hospital institutions and research universities. The city now has over 600 health care companies that are fueling over \$600 million in annual research. The city, however, is extending its drive to innovate even further with state support for the Cleveland Health and Technology Corridor, located along Euclid Avenue. Last year, Senator Smith advocated for this state support, writing letters to state officials to encourage the creation of this job-creating corridor.

Designated a "hub of innovation and opportunity," the Cleveland Health and Technology Corridor is poised to help the city and region in a number of different ways. The biomedical research

and technology of the Corridor is helping push the limits of healthcare service and technology. The Corridor's biomedical focus is developing devices for cardiovascular, imaging, and neurostimulation applications. The benefit of the increased knowledge in these areas will extend well past Cleveland and into the rest of the world.

Closer to home, however, the Corridor is expected to create a number of high-wage jobs. It will house at least 75 biomedical companies and 45 high-tech companies upon its completion, ultimately employing 50,000 healthcare and biomedical employees. The Corridor is expected to attract key talent in the field, as well as retain the talent already in the region.

The Cleveland Health and Technology Center covers 1,600 acres and three miles, stretching from Mayfield Road to Downtown. Its partners include the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, the Department of Development, and the Greater Cleveland Partnership, among others.

The Cleveland Health and Technology Corridor is part of a larger venture to diversify Ohio's economy and establish the state as a global center for innovation. There are seven "hubs" located around the state, three of which are located in Northeast Ohio: Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown all have their own dedicated hubs. The close proximity of these hubs will help Northeast Ohio become a worldwide leader in biomedical technology.

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Shirley Smith

State Senator



SENATOR SHIRLEY SMITH

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER



APRIL 2011

**TAKING A STAND AGAINST SENATE BILL 5
FIGHTING TO KEEP STATE INSTITUTIONS OPEN IN
CLEVELAND**

**PROFILES IN THE DISTRICT—THE CLEVELAND
HEALTH & TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR**

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

In my 13 years as a legislator, I have never experienced a legislative season quite like this. The General Assembly is wrestling with reforms for Ohio's schools, its five retirement systems, voting laws, and collective bargaining.

Senate Bill 5, a Republican bill to effectively eliminate public collective bargaining rights, has caused the biggest stir so far. I worry that S.B. 5 may hurt Ohio's already-shrinking working class. Inside this issue I have included more information to explain why I voted against this bad legislation.

I have also been busy working on legislation. I joined a Cincinnati colleague in sponsoring S.B. 10, legislation that will provide necessary prison and sentencing reforms. Senate Bill 10 will also help Ohio decrease spending on prisons, and it will remove barriers and make alternatives available to offenders, substance abusers, and the mentally disabled. These reforms have been included as important policy options in the state's operating budget, and I hope to see them enacted soon.

Trust that I am eager to make my voice heard on these important issues because they make a difference in our Cleveland communities. I am also eager to hear your voices – my office is always open via phone, email, or postage mail. Never hesitate to contact me regarding your feelings on any issues before the legislature.

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Smith
State Senator, 21st District

If you would like to get in touch with Senator Smith, use the information below to write, email, or call her office in Columbus.

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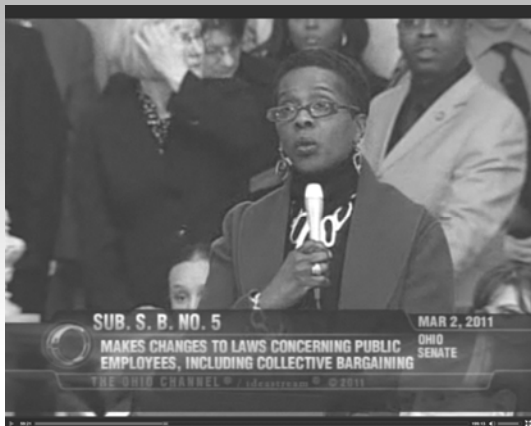
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Important websites

The Ohio Senate
www.ohiosenate.gov
Search for Legislation
legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm
Senate Democrats' Blog
www.ohiosenatedems.blogspot.com

SENATOR SMITH TAKES A STAND AGAINST THE ATTACK ON OHIO'S WORKING FAMILIES

FIGHTING TO KEEP STATE INSTITUTIONS OPEN IN CLEVELAND



On March 2, 2011, Senator Smith spoke passionately before voting against legislation that will hurt Ohio families and public employees. This legislation was drafted and amended without any collaboration or input from Senator Smith, her Democratic colleagues, or Ohio's collective bargaining leaders. While there are areas of agreement on reforming Ohio's collective bargaining laws, Senator Smith said that this bill is an assault on the legislative process and is the silencing of workers' voices in the workplace.

The Senate majority only passed this bill by one vote (17-16) before sending it to the Republican-led Ohio House. Their changes to the bill did nothing to rectify its significant shortcomings. Senator Smith again voted against the bill when it returned for confirmation by the Senate on March 30, it again barely passed by one vote.

SENATOR SMITH'S SPEECH OPPOSING SENATE BILL 5

Below is a transcript of the speech that Senator Smith delivered to her colleagues in the Ohio Senate before she voted against Senate Bill 5.

I rise today overcome by mixed emotions of what's right, what's needed, and what we could have done to lessen the grief being imposed upon our state.

I rise today in the midst of a three week legislative whirlwind unlike any political storm that I have experienced since being here in the legislature.

I rise today feeling as though I am running backwards on a treadmill through the dark and evil annals of history.

For me this is more than just about filling budget holes and having flexibility. This is about (1) process, (2) removing the voice of working people from the work place and from politics, and (3) maintaining the moral health of our state between the unions, labor, political parties, and the people that we serve...

There are provisions that we can agree on. However, it is the inappropriate attitude of intentions and disregard for process that is the genesis of this battle. The bill was drafted and introduced without any input from unions, labor, stakeholders, or interested parties.

When you remove the voice of working people from the work place and from politics, you remove their ability to seek better working conditions or deal with any injustices.

When you remove the voice of working people from the work place and from politics, not only do you create a system of oppression, but a system that is absent of individual protections and rights.

This archaic solutions of addressing issues that affect the quality of life for working people has stopped at nothing short of criminalizing individuals for protecting their rights, feeding their families, and trying to live the American dream.

It is these same ideals that Martin Luther King died for. He died for people to have the right to collectively bargain. And if not for any other reason, the fact that he died in support of collective bargaining is enough for me not to support this bill.

However, there are more reasons.

This is a bold and speedy move to reform government without participation of the people.

It is an insult to democracy, a gangster approach to change, and a direct erosion of the people's rights.

We have heard the verbal interpretations of the bill, saying that people still have the right to collectively bargain.

But in reality, this bill kills dreams, this bill kills jobs, this bill kills opportunities, and this bill kills Ohio."

As Ohio policymakers attempt to manage budgetary problems with large reforms to collective bargaining, pensions, and other areas of concern, many decisions are being made concerning state funds and their disbursement. As a member of the Senate leadership and the important Finance Committee, Senator Smith has been fighting to stay involved and aware of these major developments. Unfortunately, some potential decisions may actually harm Greater Cleveland more than they help, and Senator Smith is fighting to stop these potentially disastrous decisions from being realized.

Two such possibilities have occurred very recently in District 21, and Senator Smith fought back immediately each time. The Ohio Department of Mental Health has decided to close its Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare campus, located on Southpoint Drive on Cleveland's East Side. Citing operation and maintenance costs for the eighty year-old facility, the Department said that closure is expected to take effect July 1, 2011. Patients and staff will be moved to the Northcoast facility in Akron, Ohio.

This is a bold decision considering that four years ago the Department of Mental Health allocated \$8 million for development of a new hospital in Cleveland's Ward 7. Even though the city of Cleveland already began remediating and preparing the new property for development, the Department of Mental Health has decided that building a new mental health facility in Cleveland is unnecessary, and that the \$8 billion will be redistributed to other facilities around the state.

Senator Smith understands that the closure of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare and the subsequent removal of funds for a new hospital will make seeking mental healthcare very difficult within Cleveland. It will become more difficult for Cleveland-area families to visit their loved ones, who will be moved to institu-

tions that are farther away. There is also potential for almost 200 lost jobs around the Cleveland area. She firmly stands against the decisions that the Ohio Department of Mental Health has made, and has urged them repeatedly to reconsider what is to be done with the facilities.

Another change to reduce operating costs was proposed by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The department's suggested action would take more than 500 low-security female offenders at Cleveland's Northeast Pre-Release Center and move them to a facility in Dayton. Their empty beds would then be filled by male offenders from around the state.

While this may save the state money immediately, the long-term effects may be devastating. The current program at the Northeast Pre-Release Center is very effective at rehabilitating the female offenders, but the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction looked past this in their suggestion.

As soon as Senator Smith heard about this proposal, she spoke at length with DRC Director Gary Mohr and other stakeholders about it, urging them to re-evaluate the situation. She strongly advocated for expanded use of transitional controls, which have been show to be effective tools in increasing public safety and decreasing recidivism. Senate Bill 10, jointly sponsored by Senator Smith and Senator Bill Seitz, would greatly improve the overcrowding situation throughout the state's corrections system, removing the need for the women to relocate to free their beds.

On April 7, Senator Smith received word that her fight had not gone unnoticed: the DRC decided to keep the female offenders at the Northeast Pre-Release Center. This was the right choice for Cleveland, and the right choice for Ohio.

Useful State Numbers

- Attorney General Mike Dewine 614-466-4320
- Child Support Hotline 614-752-9743
- Civil Rights Commission 888-278-7101
- Consumer Protection 800-282-0515
- Crime Victim Assistance 800-582-CVSS
- Environmental Complaints 800-282-9378
- Golden Buckeye Card 800-422-1976
- Health Dept. Complaint Hotline 800-669-3534
- Help Me Grow Helpline 800-755-GROW
- Home Energy Assistance Program 800-282-0880
- Dept. of Job and Family Services 800-686-1556
- License Plate Info 800-589-TAGS
- Lottery—Customer Service 800-686-4208
- Medicaid Hotline 614-728-3288
- Missing Children's Clearinghouse 800-325-5604
- Ohio Tobacco Quit Line 800-QUIT-NOW
- Ohio Turnpike Info 88-TURNPIKE
- Road Condition Hotline 888-2-OH-ROAD
- State Highway Patrol Highway Help 877-7-PATROL
- State Highway Patrol DUI Hotline 800-GRAB-DUI
- Tax Questions 800-282-1780
- Travel & Tourism 800-BUCKEYE
- Unemployment Compensation 877-644-6562
- Utility Consumer Complaints 800-686-7826
- Workers' Compensation 800-OHIO-BWC

The video of this speech can be accessed by visiting this Ohio Channel link:

<http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx?fileId=129320&startTime=3551>