

**Join us for Hispanic Legislative Visit Day - May 5th, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

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### ***News Impacting the Community***

Associated Press

[After historic arguments, court to rule on same-sex marriage](#)

Columbus Dispatch

[Ohio House wants to take Medicaid authority from governor](#)

Columbus Dispatch

[Advocates talk 'over-criminalization' of mentally ill](#)

Plain Dealer

[Ohio's police use-of-force training standards should be more rigorous, task force](#)

## ***Legislative Update***

Below is a list of legislation the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is tracking. We encourage you to become familiar with these proposals, as they are sure to affect Ohio's Latino community. To read a complete list of tracked legislation, [click here](#).

### **Education and Workforce Development**

[Senate Bill 148](#)- Introduced by Senators Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) and Tom Sawyer (D-Akron), SB 148 seeks to correct the performance and accountability troubles affecting Ohio's charter school system. Similar to legislation passed in the Ohio House this month, SB 148 sets even higher standards regarding the oversight of the charter school system. Among its provisions, the bill:

- Requires the Department of Education to develop an annual report card system for operators
- Requires operators to provide detailed accounting of their spending
- Requires truancy rules that match traditional public schools
- Prohibits schools from switching sponsors when poor results have caused their sponsor to shut down

Companion legislation was introduced in the House by Reps. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and John Patterson (D-Ashtabula).

[concludes](#)

Cincinnati Enquirer  
[Bill would allow officiants to refuse gay marriages](#)

Associated Press  
[Senate panel OKs tougher prison terms for Ohio gun crimes](#)

Plain Dealer  
[Lawmaker hopes tax package will be a hit for Ohio's music industry](#)



### Upcoming Events:

Choosing the Business  
Idea Workshop,  
Gahanna - May 1

18th Annual Cinco de  
Mayo Parade, Cincinnati  
- May 2

Anti-Human Trafficking  
March for Freedom,  
Columbus - May 3

Hispanic Legislative

This legislation was referred to the Finance Committee's subcommittee on K-12 Education where it awaits a hearing. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 28 percent of charter school students in the US are Latino.

### Related Articles:

Dayton Daily News - [Ohio lawmakers join forces to crack down on charter schools](#)

Columbus Dispatch -- [Ohio Senate leads on reform](#)

## Economy, Business and Labor

[House Bill 64](#)- Every two years, our Governor and the Ohio General Assembly devise a budget to allocate the state's financial resources among its many competing spending priorities. Last week, the biennial budget was approved in the House by a 63-35 vote, with five Republicans voting against the measure and three Democrats voting for it. The legislation includes a 6.3 percent income tax cut, and creates permanent tax breaks for small businesses. Funding to preserve Medicaid expansion is included in the budget, as well as a provision to require monthly premiums for Medicaid recipients earning more than 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Under the House version of HB 64, no school districts will receive less state funds in 2017 than they currently receive. This budget bill is now being considered in the Senate where it will likely undergo further changes.

### Related Article:

Columbus Dispatch- [House passes its state budget; Kasich criticizes changes](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer- [Record \\$131.6 billion budget plan passes Ohio House](#)

Dayton Daily news -- [Ohio House budget spends most in history; Kasich is not happy about it](#)

## Health and Safety

**Visit Day, Columbus -  
May 5**

SBDC Financing Your  
Business Webinar - May  
5

LGBTQ Youth Walk,  
Columbus - May 6

Medicare for Beginners,  
Columbus - May 7

2015 Bienestar  
Recognition Luncheon,  
Cincinnati - May 8

South American Accents  
Concert, Kettering - May  
10

[Click here to view a  
complete list of events.](#)

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Did you miss a Legislative  
Update?

[Click here to access a list of all  
our updates.](#)

[Senate Bill 33](#) - Introduced by Senator Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus), SB 33 would require health care professionals to complete cultural competency training in order to receive or renew their license, certification or registration by the appropriate state board. Cultural competency in the healthcare field has a purpose to treat patients and eliminate health disparities among racial, ethnic and cultural communities. Research from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio indicates that Hispanics are more likely than Caucasians to feel they have been treated disrespectfully during a health care visit. They are also more likely to report that their doctor did not listen to everything they said or that they did not fully understand their doctor. Hispanics are more likely to report that they had questions during the visit they did not ask. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Health and Human Services committee.

**Related Articles:**

*Health Policy Institute of Ohio --* [The role of diversity in Ohio's health workforce](#)

## **Immigration, Justice and Civil Rights**

[House Bill 50](#)-- Introduced by Reps. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) and Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City), HB 50 would extend the age for which a person is eligible for foster care and adoption assistance payments to 21 years old. The bill's sponsors say this legislation will improve the lives of Ohio's foster children who age out of the system each year. Approximately \$2 million would be appropriated to fund the extended foster-care program, and supporters say the state will eventually save money as a result of reduced homelessness, incarceration and joblessness that often affect former foster children. This bill passed out of the Community and Family Advancement Committee with a vote of 14-1. It now heads to the House floor for full consideration.

**Related Article:**

*Columbus Dispatch--* [Proposed bill would help foster kids and people with guardians](#)

*Pike County News Watchman--* [Ohio legislation would extend foster care age limits](#)

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