



## Meet the Senate Standing Committee Members

Update January 11, 2023

By Jan Lanier JD, RN, Liaison Public Policy Committee

While the Ohio House of Representatives continues to deal with the turmoil and fallout from the Speaker decision, the Senate is moving ahead with business as usual. Multiple standing committees were designated, committee chairs and other leaders named, and members appointed. Following is information about the members of the committees likely to deal most regularly with health care-related matters. (Source: *Ohiosenate.gov*).

### Health Committee:

**Chair: Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City)**



Senator Huffman returns as chair of the Health Committee. He holds a medical degree from the University of Toledo, Medical College of Ohio. He has been a practicing physician at Upper Valley Medical Center and Wayne Hospital for 18 years.

**Vice chair: Terry Johnson (R-Scioto County)**



Senator Johnson is also a familiar face on the Health Committee. Like his colleague Sen Huffman, he is a physician having graduated from the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a family practice physician in southern Ohio where he has lived throughout his life. He is also a clinical professor of family medicine at OU and is married with 4 children and 2 grandchildren.

**Ranking Minority Member: Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood)**



Senator Antonio is returning to the Health Committee. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in education and Master's Degree in public administration from Cleveland State University. In 2011 she was a Bohnett Fellow of the Kennedy School of Harvard University Leadership Program. She was the first member of the LGBTQ community elected to the Ohio House in 2010 and the Ohio Senate in 2018.

**Members:**

**Bob Hackett (R-London)**



Senator Hackett holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Columbia where he earned all-conference honors as a member of the football team. He was also recognized as a scholar athlete. He worked in agriculture following his graduation and then began his career in financial services. He is married with one son.

**Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati)**



Senator Ingram holds a Bachelor of Science degree and an MBA from the University of Cincinnati. Prior to her election to the Ohio Senate, she served three terms in the Ohio House and was a member of the Cincinnati Board of Education for over 20 years. She is a practicing realtor.

**Kristine Roegner (R-Hudson)**



Senator Roegner holds a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tufts University and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to serving in public office, she was a field engineer and a management consultant serving global clients focusing on performance and strategic issues. She is married with three children.

**Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario)**



Senator Romanchuk served four terms in the Ohio House before his election to the Ohio Senate. He is the owner and CEO of PR Machine Works, a contract manufacturer providing precision machining, fabrication, and assembly services. Prior to that he worked in a diplomatic capacity to the former Soviet Union in support of the Intermediate Ranger Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

## **Medicaid Committee:**

**Chair: Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario)** *(See Health Committee)*

**Vice Chair: Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls)**



Senator Dolan is a graduate of Boston College and the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He is currently a partner in the law firm of Thrasher, Dinsmore, & Dolan representing business clients. He also manages several area businesses and real estate properties. Prior to his election to the legislature, he was a chief assistant prosecutor for Geauga County and an assistant attorney general for the State of Ohio.

**Ranking Minority Member—Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati)** *(See Health Committee)*

## **Members:**

**Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg)**



Senator Antani holds a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. He was a member of the Ohio House before his election to the senate. He is the first Indian American state senator. Prior to his election to the legislature, he was active in several political campaigns including Romney for President and Congressman Mike Turner's campaign. He was named to Forbes Magazine's list of "Top 30 under 30" in the U.S. for law and politics.

**Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus)**



Senator Craig holds a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University and studied at the Ashland Theological Seminary in its Master of Divinity program. He was a Join Together National Leadership Fellow at the Boston University School of Public Health and served two years in the U.S. Army. Before his election to the Ohio Senate, he was a member of the Columbus City Council.

**Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City)** *(See Health Committee)*

**Terry Johnson (R-Scioto County)** *(See Health Committee)*

## **Insurance Committee**

**Chair: Robert Hackett (R-London)** *(See Health Committee)*

**Vice chair: Kirk Schuring (R-Stark County)**



Senator Schuring was first elected to the General Assembly in 1993 and has served in both the house and senate. He attended Kent State University. During his years of public service, he has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by numerous organizations including the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, Ohio Association of Acupuncturists, Ohio Federation of Teachers, Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers, and the Ohio Speech and Hearing Association. He has authored legislative initiatives benefitting healthcare, economic development, & families.

**Ranking Minority Member: Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus)** *(See Medicaid Committee)*

### **Members:**

**Louis Blessing III (R-Colerain Township)**



Senator Blessing holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He is a licensed professional engineer with an extensive background in electrical engineering. He is married with two children.

**William De Mora (D-Columbus)**

No photo available. Senator DeMora is a newly elected member of the Ohio Senate. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University where he served in leadership roles for the Ohio State Democratic Club and Ohio College Democrats. Prior to his election, he served as executive director of the Ohio Democratic Party and of the Ohio Conservation Voters.

**Frank Hoagland (R-Adena)**



Senator Hoagland is a retired Navy SEAL and small business owner. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy and started serving two weeks after graduating from Buckeye North High School. He founded small business START where he shares his expertise on emergency preparation and emergency response procedures.

**Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City)** *(See Health Committee)*

**Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati)** *(See Health Committee)*

**Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard)**



Senator Kunze graduated from Indiana University with a degree in English. Prior to her election to the senate, she served in the Ohio House and on the Hilliard City Council. She serves as co-chair of the Infant Mortality Commission and is committed to reducing Ohio's alarming infant mortality rate. She is married with two children.

**George Lang (R-West Chester)**



Senator Lang served two terms in the Ohio House before joining the senate. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a major in communications and a double minor in marketing and speech. Prior to election to the General Assembly, he served on a local Board of Zoning Appeals and as a township trustee. He held several sales and management positions at Proctor & Gamble before starting his own small business in the financial services industry. He is married with two children.

**Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville)**



Senator Manning holds a bachelor's degree from Denison University and a Juris Doctor degree from Capital University Law School. He served as prosecutor for the city of North Ridgeville and currently owns the law firm Manning & Manning with his sister. He is active in several community organizations.

**Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster)**



Senator Schaffer has been a member of the General Assembly since 2000. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and communications from Mt. Union College and was a fullback on the OAC championship soccer team. In addition to his legislative duties, he has a private sector career as an association executive. He has received numerous community and professional honors throughout his years of public service.

**Steve Wilson (R-Maineville)**



Senator Wilson was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1975. He has focused his efforts on community service and his 40-year career with the Lebanon Citizen National Bank from which he retired as CEO and now serves as Chairman of the board. He is married with four children and five grandchildren.

**Finance Committee**

**Chair: Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls)** *(See Medicaid Committee)*

**Vice chair: Jerry Cirino (R-Lake County)**



Senator Cirino holds a Bachelor of Science degree and MBA from Lake Erie College. He spent many years leading companies in the medical device sector. Now retired, he was CEO of SourceOne Healthcare Technologies in Mentor. Prior to his election to the senate, he was a county commissioner. He has served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Lakeland Community College and as board chair of Cleveland Right to Life. He is married with nine children.

**Ranking member: Vernon Sykes (D-Akron)**



Senator Sykes was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives and Akron City Council before being elected to the senate. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in management and organizational behavior from Ohio University and attended Wright State University and Harvard University where he earned a Master’s degree in social and applied economics, and he earned a Master’s degree and PhD in public administration from the

University of Akron. He obtained Professor Emeritus standing at Kent State University in 2020. He is married with two children (one of whom was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2022)

**Louis Blessing III (R-Colerain Township)** (See Insurance Committee)

**Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware)**



Senator Brenner was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives prior to being elected to the senate. He also served in several local government positions in Delaware County. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and holds a Master of Education degree in teaching and learning with an emphasis on leadership from Liberty University. He is a licensed realtor.

**Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus)** (See Medicaid Committee)

**Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green)**



Senator Gavarone served in the Ohio House before becoming a member of the senate. She also held positions in local government, including serving on the Bowling Green City Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bowling Green State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. In addition to public service, she is a small business owner. She is married with three children.

**Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo)**



Senator Hicks-Hudson graduated from Spelman College with a bachelor's degree in political science and journalism. She holds a master's degree in communications development from Colorado State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa. During her 35-year professional career she worked as an assistant Lucas County prosecutor, assistant public defender, and assistant attorney general for the State of Ohio. She was also the legal director for the City of Toledo City Council. She is trained in mediation and advocacy and is the mother of two adult children. She lost her husband of 45 years in 2018.

**George Lang (R-West Chester)** (See Insurance Committee)

**Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville)** (See Insurance Committee)

**Bill Reineke (R- Tiffin)**



Senator Reineke served three terms in the Ohio House before becoming a member of the Senate. He attended Morehead State University and is a business partner in the Reineke Family Dealership. He has worked closely with local community organizations including the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce and Tiffin Rotary Club.

**Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario)** *(See Health Committee)*

**Kirk Schuring (R-Stark County)** *(See Insurance Committee)*