

★★★★ United States Senator for Ohio ★★★★★

Sherrod Brown



Report to Ohioans 2011



Sen. Brown tours the Chrysler Group's Toledo Supplier Park, meets with auto workers.



Sen. Brown visits the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB).



Sen. Brown listens to seniors, discusses protecting Medicare at a senior center in Youngstown.



Sen. Brown presents overdue and replacement medals to Hamilton County veteran Samuel Reeves, 89, joined by his daughter, Hiawatha.

Mission

Sherrod Brown fights for the middle class because he believes that everyone who works hard and plays by the rules should be able to get ahead.

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Message from Senator Brown

While travelling throughout the state and visiting Ohio's 88 counties, I continue to hear about the middle class squeeze facing so many Ohioans who work hard, play by the rules, and still struggle to make ends meet. Some have seen their wages remain stagnant, while costs of basic necessities increase. Others have had their wages reduced or their hours cut – or are still looking for work. They are tired of the partisanship that undermines progress, and worried about an economy shifting away from a shared prosperity and a strong middle class.

In 2011, I continued what I started since taking office, participating in dozens of roundtables in every corner of the state, listening to Ohioans to get their ideas on how we can make Washington work better. My staff and I held close to 4,000 meetings with Ohioans, resolved more than 7,500 individual casework issues, and answered more than 450,000 inquiries. Throughout 2011, I also heard the stories of recovery and resilience, of Ohioans who are working to do right by their families, their employees or employers, their fellow students, seniors, farmers, and veterans.

This 2011 Report to Ohioans discusses some of the progress we've made in promoting job creation and economic development, investing in transportation and infrastructure, and supporting our seniors and servicemembers, and teachers and safety forces.

The rebound in the auto industry is critical to the hundreds of auto suppliers and thousands of workers who are the backbone of Ohio's economy. The Chevy Cruze, one of the hottest selling cars in America, is as close to an all-Ohio car as you can get, with parts stamped and supplied from Parma to Springfield to Cleveland. In 2011, Honda, Chrysler, Ford, and GM announced various multi-million dollar investments in Ohio. Honda announced that it would build and develop its most state-of-the-art sports car ever, right in Marysville. We see the same job creating investments from Chrysler at its Toledo Assembly Complex, Ford at its Avon Lake plant, and GM at its Defiance Powertrain plant.

And in the year that we observed the 10th anniversary of 9/11, we reminded ourselves that we can all serve those who serve us. President Obama and our brave servicemembers brought Osama bin Laden to justice and ended the war in Iraq. But we have a continuing responsibility to provide all veterans with the benefits they have earned and the help they need to transition to civilian life. Across the state I met with educators and small businesses owners who are using the recently passed Vow to Hire Heroes Act to train and hire veterans looking for work. It's clear that veterans will play a critical role in strengthening our economy and rebuilding our middle class.

Through workshops and summits hosted by my office, hundreds of small business owners were connected with federal resources that help them export their products, hire new workers, and expand their businesses. And with middle class Ohioans making their voice clear, I was proud to

stand with them to make sure they keep more of their hard earned money through the payroll tax cut extension.

But more needs to be done.

In 2011, the Senate passed my China currency bill, the biggest bipartisan jobs bill of the year. Manufacturers from Dayton, Youngstown, and Toledo shared their stories about how imposing tariffs and trade remedies when China cheats by manipulating its currency could provide immediate relief for American workers. The legislation would level the playing field for American manufacturing and could create millions of jobs and reduce the deficit, at no cost to taxpayers. In 2012, the House needs to pass this bill and the President needs to sign it into law.

Our communities need to have safe roads and bridges, dependable water and sewer systems, and better schools to attract new jobs and economic development. At the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati, I joined construction officials and economic development leaders to discuss how improving our roads and bridges, and modernizing our schools not only creates jobs, but also strengthens our economic competitiveness. It's time to address the infrastructure deficit plaguing our communities.

We owe it to our children to reduce the deficit, but we must do that in a way that does not jeopardize the economic security of their grandparents. From kitchen tables to the halls of Congress, there is a debate on how to reduce deficits and how to cut and invest wisely. We shouldn't balance the budget by placing undue burden on our seniors, nor ever turn Social Security over to Wall Street or Medicare to insurance companies.

Instead, let's find sensible ways to reduce the deficit and still invest in our future. With agriculture remaining Ohio's number one industry, I launched a Grown in Ohio Listening Tour to prepare for the 2012 farm bill – and discuss my bipartisan bill that could reduce the deficit by \$20 billion and ensure farm safety net programs are more responsive to farmers and taxpayers. We must also work to close tax loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas – a proposal that could create jobs and save another \$19.5 billion over 10 years.

In 2012, we must continue to focus on job creation and economic recovery. As another year begins, I remain honored and humbled to serve and will continue to fight for Ohio's middle class.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod

Sen. Brown is Here to Serve You: Constituent Services

Sen. Brown is here to serve the people of Ohio. He is committed to listening to Ohioans, assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters, and providing constituent services.

Listening to Ohioans

Sen. Brown has held more than 200 roundtable discussions in all 88 of Ohio's counties. He also holds regular conference calls with constituent groups, hosts Thursday morning coffees with constituents in the Capitol, and responds to every letter and email he receives.

Photo (right): Sen. Brown holds an urban agriculture roundtable in Cleveland.



Constituent Calls

When the U.S. Senate is in session and Sen. Brown must be in Washington, he hosts regular conference calls with small groups of Ohioans to get their input on issues before Congress. On these "Constituent Calls" in 2011, Sen. Brown listened to a diverse mix of Ohioans, from farmers to school principals and superintendents to senior citizens to Ohio mayors to veterans and more.



Constituent Coffees

Ohio constituents visiting Washington, D.C. are invited to Sen. Brown's weekly constituent coffee. Sen. Brown and his staff hold these coffees to stay in touch with Ohioans, welcome them to Washington, and get feedback on his work. For more information, visit Sen. Brown's website: <http://brown.senate.gov>.

Photo (left): Sen. Brown greets an Ohioan at a weekly constituent coffee in Washington, D.C.

Correspondence

Sen. Brown places a high priority on prompt and accurate responses to letters, emails, and calls from constituents. In 2011, the Senator's office received and responded to more than 460,000 emails and letters from Ohioans. To send your comments to Sen. Brown, visit his website: <http://brown.senate.gov>.

Assisting Ohioans with Federal Matters

Sen. Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Ohioans can call Sen. Brown's state offices and work directly with a constituent services representative to obtain information or resolve an issue they are having with a federal agency. Common areas of inquiry include: Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, military service issues, passport or visa problems, housing matters, IRS issues, and more.

Please note: Sen. Brown's office can only provide assistance on federal matters. When appropriate, Sen. Brown's office can help identify and locate state and local services.

Casework Examples

Helping Ohioans with Social Security

Social Security provides critical support to millions of Ohio seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities. It's an important program for disabled workers and surviving family members who are guaranteed monthly income through Social Security. Sen. Brown's office can often assist Ohioans having difficulty with the claims process. For example, a Northeast Ohio constituent had been given a Social Security hearing but was still awaiting the hearing decision several months later. Without it, her utilities had been shut off and she was in danger of losing her home. Sen. Brown's office assisted in contacting the Social Security Administration, learned that the decision was favorable, and asked the agency to expedite the processing of her benefits. The constituent informed Sen. Brown's office that her home was saved and her utilities were reconnected.

Assisting Ohioans with Medicare

Sen. Brown has heard from many Ohio seniors struggling with rising health care and prescription drug costs. Ohio seniors shouldn't have to worry about how they're going to afford prescription drug costs. A Central Ohio constituent contacted Sen. Brown's office to request assistance with his Medicare prescription drug plan, which had been suspended in error. Sen. Brown's office immediately contacted the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Medicare D suspension error was removed and the constituent's plan was reinstated without any lapse in coverage.

Helping Ohio Veterans and Military Families Access Benefits

Sen. Brown, a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has worked to reduce VA benefits disparities for Ohio veterans and to cut down on the VA claims backlog. Sen. Brown's office also helps individual Ohio veterans and military families access the benefits they have earned and deserve.

For example, a Huron County veteran requested Sen. Brown's help in locating hospital records from the late 1970s so he could use the information in support of his VA claim. Sen. Brown's staff contacted the Milwaukee VA and obtained the archived records. Additionally, a Southeast Ohio constituent contacted Sen. Brown's office asking for help when her mother's VA pension

was stopped. The family needed the monthly payment to cover the mother's assisted living expenses. With the help of Sen. Brown's staff, the VA reinstated the pension.

Sen. Brown's office also assists active duty military families. For example, a Southwest Ohio soldier and father was scheduled to report to duty in August but he was also required to participate in a child custody hearing after his departure date. The soldier would lose child custody if he did not attend the hearing. He contacted Sen. Brown's office for assistance. After Sen. Brown's office brought the soldier's situation to the attention of the Army, the soldier's report date was amended.

Obtaining Overdue or Replacement Medals for Ohio Veterans

Replacing overdue medals is a small, but significant, way to honor and repay the tremendous work Ohio's veterans have undertaken on our behalf, and serves as an inspiration to future generations from our state. In 2011, Sen. Brown's office received nearly 450 requests from Ohio veterans or their families for records and/or medals. Sen. Brown and his staff are honored to present so many Ohio veterans and their family members with well-earned medals.



In May 2011, Sen. Brown presented overdue and replacement military medals to a Hamilton County veteran in a ceremony at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Sen. Brown presented Samuel Reeves, 89, with seven overdue medals and four replacement medals that he received when he was discharged.

Photo (left): Sen. Brown presents overdue and replacement medals to Hamilton County veteran Samuel Reeves, 89. Reeves is joined by his daughter, Hiawatha Reeves.

In November 2011, representatives from Sen. Brown's office and Brigadier General Stephen E. Markovich of the Ohio Air National Guard presented retired U.S. Army Major Joseph Haugen of Franklin with the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom at a ceremony at center ice immediately preceding a Columbus Blue Jackets game.

Sen. Brown encourages any veteran who thinks he or she may be entitled to overdue or replacement medals—or has any other question or concern or needs assistance with the VA—to contact his office. Ohio veterans and the family members of deceased veterans may request military records and medals by contacting Sen. Brown's Cleveland office at (216) 522-7272 or toll free at (888) 896-OHIO (6446), option 1.

Other Services for Constituents

Request a Flag

Sen. Brown's staff can assist organizations and individuals in purchasing flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol. The flag is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from the Architect of the Capitol. Please visit Sen. Brown's website for prices and information.

Attend a Military Academy

Each year, Sen. Brown is honored to nominate students to attend the Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy, the Naval Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Interested individuals can request an application from Sen. Brown's office during the spring of their junior year of high school by contacting Sen. Brown's Academy Coordinator at: (216) 522-7272 or toll-free (888) 896-6446.

Request a Tour

If you are planning a trip to our nation's Capitol, Sen. Brown's office can assist you in coordinating tours of the U.S. Capitol Building, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, and Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The easiest way to request a tour is to visit Sen. Brown's website.

Become an Intern

Students considering a future in public service may be interested in interning for Sen. Brown in Washington, D.C. or in one of his state offices. Internships can last several weeks or for a full semester during the school year. Preference is given to students from Ohio or attending school in Ohio, as well as students who have completed at least one semester of college. To apply for an internship, please visit Sen. Brown's website or contact one of the offices directly.

For more information, please visit Sen. Brown's website:

http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent_services

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Regional Highlights

Sen. Brown and his staff are involved in an array of projects and activities across the state to improve the lives of Ohioans. The following pages provide an overview of project highlights in each region of the state.

Central Ohio Regional Highlights

Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

Fighting for Ohio's Auto Industry

Sen. Brown visited Marysville's Honda Facility in August to meet with workers and leaders and to view construction of a new stamping press. Sen. Brown and Honda leaders highlighted the \$335 million in investments that the automaker made at Ohio's four Honda facilities.

Just a few years ago, the possibility of layoffs was very real for many American auto workers. While Honda did not require assistance through the auto rescue, the company supported assistance for its competitors. Honda knew that the collapse of GM or Chrysler would send ripples throughout the auto supply chain, including the more than 150 Ohio companies employing more than 30,000 workers that supply parts for Honda.

Honda employs more than 13,000 Ohio workers. The Marysville Auto Plant opened in November 1982 and employs more than 4,000 workers who produce 440,000 vehicles each year. Originally building only Accords, the plant is now the only global manufacturer of the Honda Accord Coupe and Sedans, the Acura TL, and the Acura RDX, while also building more than 90 percent of the Honda Accord Sedans sold in America.

Promoting Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Job Growth in Central Ohio

Sen. Brown, Battelle President & CEO Jeff Wadsworth, and JumpStart CEO Ray Leach convened a roundtable discussion in Columbus in March with Ohio's innovation and entrepreneurship leaders to discuss how to create a viable federal innovation agenda that works for Ohio.

Participants discussed how to elevate Ohio's success in supporting entrepreneurs, improve federal efforts to support innovation and entrepreneurship, and determine any barriers that federal activities might create to accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship.

In August, Sen. Brown announced a federal award for Battelle Memorial Institute to conduct research that will help identify ways to drive down production costs of manufacturing.

Retaining Talented Young Adults in Central Ohio

Attracting and retaining talented young adults in Ohio is critical to our state's economy in the 21st century. That is why Sen. Brown launched a "Brain Gain Initiative" to retain and attract talent by helping young Ohioans access meaningful jobs and connect to their communities.

In September, Sen. Brown met with Columbus-area young professionals to hear about their efforts to make Ohio a more attractive place to live and work by improving downtown living and public transportation. Sen. Brown will continue working to connect Ohio's young talent to opportunities across our state.

Marking Increased Production at Navistar in Springfield



Following Navistar's announcement of layoffs for Springfield workers and uncertainty about the Springfield plant's future, Sen. Brown worked closely with the company, the United Auto Workers (UAW) Locals 402 and 658, and the Springfield community in their efforts to keep the plant open.

In April, Sen. Brown visited Navistar's Springfield plant to mark increased production at the facility, where production has doubled and nearly 200 employees have been recalled from layoff since 2010. In November, Sen. Brown applauded Navistar's announcement that it will bring a new chassis line to the company's facility in Springfield. Navistar International Corp. produces commercial trucks, school buses, motor homes, and diesel engines.

Helping Manufacturers Transition to a Clean Energy Economy

To revitalize our state's manufacturing industry and help create jobs, we need to help more manufacturers in our supply chain retool for the clean energy economy and export their products around the world. In August, Sen. Brown visited a Delaware County manufacturer that makes scaffolding for wind turbines and discussed how clean energy manufacturing can create jobs, revitalize Ohio manufacturing, and hasten Ohio's economic recovery. Sky Climber is the nation's only suspended scaffolding manufacturer. Sen. Brown outlined legislation he authored, the *Security in Energy and Manufacturing (SEAM) Act*, which provides a 30 percent tax credit (known as 48C) for domestic companies that create clean energy jobs by retooling operation for the clean energy supply chain.

Improving Airport Infrastructure in Central Ohio

Our nation's economic competitiveness hinges on the strength of our infrastructure. Ohio families, business owners, students, and visitors depend on safe and efficient operations at airports. In March, Sen. Brown announced resources awarded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to replace a runway and convert an existing runway into a taxiway to improve efficiency and safety at Port Columbus International Airport. The Rickenbacker International Airport and The Fairfield County Airport will also undergo renovations because of new federal resources announced in September. Sen. Brown announced that the FAA funds will replace runway surfaces, improve landing and takeoff safety at Rickenbacker, and will acquire land for airport development projects, conduct a planning and safety evaluation, and rehabilitate the runway at Fairfield County Airport.

International Fiber Corporation Lockout Ends

In June, Sen. Brown worked to resolve a lockout at the International Fiber Corporation facility in Urbana. Sen. Brown wrote a letter to the company's Chief Executive Officer urging him to resume negotiations with the employees, who were seeking higher wages, more benefits, and job security. Sen. Brown also encouraged the corporation and employees to take advantage of services offered through Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, an independent agency. The lockout, which began in May as a result of a failure to reach a collective bargaining agreement, affected more than 90 workers.

Helping Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs

Securing Resources for Central Ohio Small Business to Expand, Hire New Workers

Sixty-five percent of new jobs originate in small businesses, making small business lending critical to our economic recovery. But small business owners faced disproportionate challenges in the aftermath of the recession and credit crisis, including difficulty accessing capital. Sen. Brown was instrumental in passing the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act*, which addresses this challenge by creating the Small Business Lending Fund (SBLF). The SBLF enables community banks to make loans to small businesses seeking to expand operations or hire new workers. In August, Sen. Brown announced that Columbus First Bancorp in Worthington would receive \$6.2 million through the SBLF to increase lending to small businesses, helping Ohio companies expand their operations and create new jobs.

Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Central Ohio Jobs

Standing Up for Central Ohio Manufacturing Against Unfair Foreign Trade

In July, Sen. Brown visited Lancaster's Anchor Hocking, where he toured the facility and met with workers to discuss manufacturing and the need for strong trade enforcement against countries like China that provide unfair subsidies to its glass producers. Headquartered in Lancaster since its inception in 1905, Anchor Hocking employs more than 1,500 Ohioans and is a leading manufacturer of Made-in-the-USA glass tableware and bakeware.

In October 2009, Sen. Brown wrote to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk in advance of a Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade meeting that examined the needs of domestic glass manufacturers, like Anchor Hocking.



Boosting Central Ohio Exports

Companies that export experience faster annual growth, pay higher wages to employees, and are more likely to stay in business. In March, Sen. Brown joined Alex Fischer, the CEO of the Columbus Partnership, at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business to host the first meeting of the Ohio Export Advisory Group. Representatives from AK Steel, GE Aviation, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Limited Brands, and the J.R. Smucker Company, discussed the importance of exports to

America's economy and job creation.

Sen. Brown also presented an Export Achievement Award recognizing Allied Minerals Company, a central Ohio company that has successfully expanded into the global marketplace. Allied Minerals – which employs 400 workers – produces large metal-melting machinery used in the steel, iron, and ceramics industries. In early 2010, the company recently finalized a distribution agreement with a Saudi Arabian company.

Sen. Brown, a member of the President's Export Council, discussed ways that Ohio businesses can take advantage of new markets and best practices for Ohio businesses exporting.

Supporting our Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement

Connecting Returning Central Ohio Servicemembers with Employment Opportunities

In August, Sen. Brown visited Dublin to help launch the Solar by Soldiers program, which helps to train and employ veterans in clean energy installation. During a visit to Flanagan's of Dublin, Sen. Brown was joined by a Central Ohio veteran to mark the completion of the first solar array built by the Solar by Soldiers program. Solar by Soldiers, run by Tipping Point Energy, helps train unemployed veterans for jobs in the solar energy industry.

Following the success of the Solar by Soldiers program, Sen. Brown announced a new initiative in December to connect more unemployed veterans with jobs in Ohio's natural gas industry. Sen. Brown was joined by Lisa Phelps, Vice President of Chesapeake Energy, for the announcement. Chesapeake has agreed to host the first in a series of jobs fairs to connect Ohio veterans with jobs in the natural gas industry. Immediately following the announcement, Sen. Brown convened an official hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in Columbus to examine barriers that veterans face to finding employment.

Fighting for Springfield's Air National Guard Base

The future of the Springfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) was in jeopardy last year before Sen. Brown led a bipartisan effort to bring a new mission – the Predator program – to the base. Predator is an unmanned aircraft that can fly anywhere around the world, piloted remotely from Springfield. The Predator mission will retain jobs for more than 800 Ohioans.



Central Ohio Veteran Awarded Medal for the Defense of Freedom

Sen. Brown, as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, is fighting for Ohio's and America's veterans by ensuring that they receive the recognition and benefits they deserve. After being contacted by retired U.S. Army Major Joseph Haugen of Franklin, Sen.

Brown was able to secure a long overdue Secretary of Defense Medal for Major Haugen. The award was presented during a ceremony at center ice preceding a Blue Jackets Hockey game.

Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare

Standing up for Central Ohio Seniors

In August, Sen. Brown convened a special forum for seniors at LifeCare Alliance in Columbus to discuss protecting Social Security and Medicare. Sen. Brown was joined by an Ohio senior who outlined how proposed changes to Medicare and Social Security would strain his monthly budget.

Sen. Brown has long been active in efforts to protect Social Security from privatization, and has worked to ensure that seniors can continue to afford necessities like prescription drugs despite the lack of cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA) that Social Security recipients have faced for the past two years. Sen. Brown strongly opposes raising the retirement age for Social Security due to the high number of Ohioans who are engaged in physically demanding work—on a shop floor, production line, or farmland. In light of proposals to raise the Social Security Retirement age, Sen. Brown introduced the *Shared Retirement Sacrifice Act of 2011*, a bill that would require current and future Members of Congress to wait until they reach Social Security retirement age to collect their own congressional retirement benefits.

Reducing Medical Costs and Improving Care

More than five million people are treated each year in U.S. hospital intensive care units (ICUs). Care delivered in ICUs costs about \$180 billion a year, which represents 30 percent of total annual acute care spending. Sen. Brown fought for funding for the Ohio Patient Safety Institute's patient safety programs which improve the delivery of care and reduce medical errors in ICUs in Franklin County. The effort is aimed at improving patient outcomes and reducing medical costs.

In the spring, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius joined Sen. Brown and the leaders from the Solutions for Patient Safety Initiative at Nationwide Children's Hospital to highlight cost savings and improved patient care through the initiative.



Because of the Solutions for Patient Safety Initiative, hospitals, taxpayers, and patients have saved more than \$12.8 million and seen 900 fewer patient days in the hospital. The initiative's leaders—representatives from Nationwide Children's, Cardinal Health, and Ohio Health—also discussed the next phase of the collaborative effort to improve healthcare safety and quality in Ohio with Sen. Brown and Secretary Sebelius.

Expanding Access to Health Care and Creating Jobs in Knox County

New federal resources will help support the renovation and expansion of a Knox County hospital. Sen. Brown announced in November that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would approve a mortgage loan for Knox Community Hospital in Mount Vernon. The project, funded through the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) *Section 242 Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program*, is expected to create more than 300 jobs and generate more than \$60 million in economic activity.

Knox Community Hospital is a not-for-profit healthcare provider operating a 115-bed acute care facility. The construction project will renovate operating rooms, expand the catheterization laboratory for diagnostic and interventional cardiac services, and help with the implementation of a hospital-wide electronic health records system. Knox Community Hospital representatives estimate that, following construction completion, the hospital will support a full-time employment base of approximately 730 jobs.

National Drug Control Strategy to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the nation and is a serious epidemic in Ohio. In July, Sen. Brown invited Gil Kerlikowske, director of National Drug Control Policy, to Columbus where he unveiled the National Drug Control Strategy at a family-based drug treatment center. Sen. Brown discussed his efforts to establish a Medicaid lock-in program to stop Medicaid prescription drug fraud and to ensure that Ohio taxpayers do not finance criminal activity or feed drug addiction.

Strengthening Ohio Neighborhoods: Keeping Ohio Families in Their Homes and Helping Seniors Keep the Heat on

Stabilizing Central Ohio Neighborhoods



Rebuilding neighborhoods devastated by the economic crisis will improve surrounding property values, create new jobs, and foster long-term economic growth. In October, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan and Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman joined Sen. Brown in touring Columbus's Commons at Third project. The project, funded through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), is aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods hardest-hit by the foreclosure crisis.

Advocating for Minority Communities

Addressing Unemployment and Other Concerns with African American Faith Leaders in Columbus

Sen. Brown met with members of the African American clergy community at Shiloh Baptist Church in Columbus in February. African American faith leaders shared concerns and ideas they've been hearing from their congregations. Sen. Brown, a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, discussed ways to protect seniors, create jobs, bolster affordable housing, and improve health care access and educational opportunities for African Americans in the Columbus region.

Supporting Central Ohio's Agriculture Economy

Supporting Bioproducts Innovation: Connecting Ohio's Strong Agriculture and Manufacturing Sectors

Biobased manufacturing brings together two of Ohio's most important industries – agriculture and manufacturing – to create jobs in rural Ohio. In July, a Union County farmer joined Sen. Brown at a Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing to examine how biobased manufacturing can create jobs and new markets for farmers.

Ohio is home to approximately 130 companies that use crops to make new products, including natural pet food, soy ink and toner, and biobased paint. In September, Sen. Brown held a roundtable discussion with biobased producers to discuss strengthening the tie between Ohio-grown crops and Ohio-made products.

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Northeast Ohio Regional Highlights

Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

Fighting Chinese Currency Manipulation to Help Ohio Manufacturers



Chinese currency manipulation puts Ohio manufacturers at a serious disadvantage when competing against Chinese companies. In October, the Senate passed the largest bipartisan jobs legislation in this session of Congress—a bill to crack down on Chinese currency manipulation, authored by Sen. Brown. *The Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011* would create and protect jobs by leveling the playing field for American manufacturers and would give the Obama Administration stronger authority to address currency manipulation and misalignment.

Prior to Senate consideration of the bill, Sen. Brown joined manufacturing advocates in Cleveland, including Randy Bennett, the co-owner of Automation Tool & Die in Brunswick, to discuss why the legislation is so critical to restoring manufacturing growth in the United States and to preserving American jobs. Although Sen. Brown's bill passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, House leadership has refused to bring the bill forward for a vote. In October, Sen. Brown and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) visited Venture Plastics, a small business in Newton Falls, to urge House action on the legislation.

Sen. Brown Attends Groundbreaking of \$21 Million Alcoa Facility in Barberton

An expansion at the Alcoa facility in Barberton will help create 30 new jobs and protect more than 350 existing positions. Sen. Brown attended the ground-breaking hosted by B&C Research, a division of Alcoa Wheel and Transportation Products. The project involves a \$21 million expansion of an advanced recycling and casting process that will reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. According to Alcoa, the new 35,000-square-foot facility will use innovative technology to produce aluminum billet from re-melted scrap aluminum. The billet will be used to produce lightweight wheels. Sen. Brown has worked to bring new jobs to Summit County and in February 2011 he wrote to Alcoa in support of the company making the new investment in Barberton.

Fighting for Continued Investments at GM Lordstown

In October, General Motors announced that the diesel Chevy Cruze will be built at its Lordstown plant. Sen. Brown is a strong supporter of Ohio's auto industry and worked on the auto restructuring, which provided relief to the Big 3 automakers and American auto suppliers in December 2008. Sen. Brown has consistently supported the GM Lordstown plant and attended the rollout of the largely Ohio-made Chevy Cruze, one of the best-selling vehicles of 2011.

Supporting Ford's Retention of 1,400 Jobs at Avon Lake Plant

In December, the Ford Motor Company announced that it will retain at least 1,400 jobs at its Avon Lake plant. The plant, which once manufactured vans, will now make trucks. With more than 792,000 Ohio jobs dependent upon the auto industry, Sen. Brown has been an outspoken advocate for Ohio's auto industry and a strong supporter of the auto restructuring. While Ford did not require assistance through the auto restructuring, saving the auto industry prevented damage to the entire supply chain. According to a 2011 study by the center for Automotive Research, 164,654 Ohio jobs would have been lost had the auto industry not been rescued. Now, as a result of stabilizing the auto sector, Ohio is reaping new jobs and investments.

Announcing New Electric Arc Furnace, New Jobs at Republic Steel's Lorain Facility

Republic Steel and its employees are looking forward to a brighter future and continuing Ohio's proud tradition of making quality steel. In November, Republic Steel announced that it will install a new electric arc furnace at its Lorain facility. Sen. Brown applauded the \$85 million investment and the expected 400 jobs it will create. The announcement represents a significant step toward the re-employment of hundreds of Lorain steelworkers. Sen. Brown has been a strong supporter of Ohio's steel industry. In December 2009 and September 2010, Sen. Brown testified before the International Trade Commission on behalf of Ohio steel workers in Lorain, Youngstown, and Warren. The ruling helped increase demand for domestic production.

Supporting the Development of Offshore Wind Energy Technology on Lake Erie

Offshore wind has the potential to bring thousands of good-paying jobs to Ohio, and a clean, renewable source of energy to Northeast Ohio homes and businesses. In July, Sen. Brown held a roundtable discussion with area wind industry stakeholders at NorTech to discuss building the offshore wind supply chain in Northern Ohio and ensuring that wind investments generate jobs locally.



In September, Sen. Brown announced new federal awards for Case Western Reserve University, Freshwater Wind, and Nautica Windpower to research advanced wind turbine systems. The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy program will finance these new offshore wind power research and development projects. The new resources are expected to help spur new technological innovations, reduce costs, and improve efficiency in creating new offshore wind energy systems.

Sen. Brown has been a longtime advocate of offshore wind energy. He successfully amended language in a Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bill to include increased funding—\$80 million—for offshore wind energy projects. As a result of Sen. Brown's efforts, shallow water projects, like those in Lake Erie, would be eligible for the funds.

Securing Federal Resources to Preserve Jobs at Ashtabula's Plant C

Ashtabula's Plant C—the former First Energy C plant—serves the critical water needs of the local industrial community and helps sustain more than 1,000 jobs. Without intervention, the outdated piping and pumping system will continue to degrade and risk significant economic consequences and job loss. In April, Sen. Brown announced a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund critical electrical and water pipe repairs at Plant C. The grant came after Sen. Brown convened a meeting in September 2010 with the Ashtabula County Port Authority, local business leaders, elected officials and other stakeholders to explore strategies to ensure the future viability of Plant C. His office worked closely with local stakeholders to provide guidance as they pursued EDA funds, which will help ensure a dependable source of raw water necessary for future development in Ashtabula.



Celebrating American Greetings's Commitment to Remain in Northeast Ohio, Save Jobs

In 2010, American Greetings announced that it was considering moving its headquarters from Northeast Ohio. In February 2011, while American Greetings was in its final stages of determining a headquarters location, Sen. Brown contacted CEO Zev Weiss urging him to consider the loyal Ohio workers that have contributed to the success of the company. In a letter to Weiss, Sen. Brown cited the strength and loyalty of the workforce at American Greetings and the support of the community. In March, Sen. Brown applauded the news that American Greetings will remain in Northeast Ohio. During the 2010 holiday season, Sen. Brown worked with community leaders to coordinate the delivery of an oversized holiday card urging the company to remain in the state. It was signed by local residents and delivered to American Greetings.

Promoting Cluster-Based Job Creation in Northeast Ohio

In September, Sen. Brown announced that four institutions in Northeast Ohio will receive new federal resources to work together on cluster-based job growth in Northeast Ohio. The Northeast Ohio Speed-To-Market Accelerator—a collaboration between the Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition (NorTech), the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network (MAGNET), JumpStart, Inc., and Lorain County Community College—will receive a total of \$2,062,945 to encourage cluster-based job growth around flexible electronics in Northeast Ohio. The funds are provided through the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge—a new, multi-agency initiative designed to help regions achieve the demonstrated benefits of collaborative, cluster-based regional development.

Saving U.S. Postal Services Facilities and Jobs in Northeast Ohio

One hundred and twenty post offices and ten mail processing facilities in Ohio originally targeted for closure will now be open at least through May 2012. At the urging of members of the U.S. Senate, including Sen. Brown, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced in December a five-month moratorium on closing postal facilities. Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *Postal*

Service Protection Act, which seeks to return the USPS to fiscal solvency while preserving Saturday mail delivery, restricting the closure of rural and urban post offices, and protecting mail processing facilities.

Visiting ArcelorMittal to Discuss Job Creation through Strong Trade Law Enforcement

In April, Sen. Brown brought the President's top trade advisor, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk, to local steelmaker ArcelorMittal in Cleveland to discuss how job creation can be promoted through strong trade law enforcement, ensuring a level playing field for Ohio businesses. Sen. Brown and Ambassador Kirk discussed how trade law enforcement defends Ohio manufacturers from unfair foreign competition and helps create and preserve jobs in Ohio and across the country. Sen. Brown and Amb. Kirk also toured the facility's hot dip galvanizing line and met with ArcelorMittal workers. Mike Rippey, President & CEO of ArcelorMittal USA, Dave McCall, District 1 Director of the United Steelworkers, along with other company and union leaders, joined Sen. Brown and Ambassador Kirk to talk about the importance of trade law enforcement for protecting American jobs and manufacturers.

Supporting Talent and Workforce Development through P-16 Education

Sen. Brown convened the first annual Northeast Ohio Regional P-16 Education Conference in Cleveland in February. The conference brought together key stakeholders—superintendents, teachers, and education leaders—to address challenges faced by schools in Northeast Ohio. Attendees discussed how to create comprehensive and integrated educational systems to help students experience a smooth transition through the educational system and into the workforce.

Helping Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs

Speaking to Entrepreneurs about Innovation & Job Creation in Shaker Heights

In October, Sen. Brown addressed the entrepreneurs and local residents who attended the dedication of the Shaker LaunchHouse, a business incubator for a range of emerging companies that are looking to grow and add jobs in Northeast Ohio.

Sen. Brown is the author of the *Business Incubator Promotion Act*, which would make more communities in Ohio eligible to receive funds that support business incubators through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). This bill would encourage the formation of business incubators in distressed communities to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, helping regions to create high-skill, high-wage jobs.



Bringing the Export-Import Bank Chairman to Mentor to Speak with Small Businesses

In September, Sen. Brown organized a Global Access forum for small businesses. More than 100 participants attended the forum held at STERIS Corp. to learn about resources available for Ohio businesses interested in increasing their export sales. The forum was one of many seminars Sen. Brown's office has held throughout the state to connect small businesses with federal resources to help them grow.

Commercializing New Technologies at the SMART Commercialization Center in Lorain

In September, Sen. Brown spoke at the groundbreaking of a center designed to help Ohio entrepreneurs and businesses commercialize advanced sensor technologies—known as sensor/MEMS-based systems—used in cars, medical equipment, and small electronics. The Richard Desich SMART Commercialization Center for Microsystems, located at Lorain County Community College, will help entrepreneurs and companies in Ohio reduce risk, time and cost associated with bringing sensor/MEMS-based technologies to market. According to Lorain County Community College, the SMART Center represents the only end-to-end packaging and testing facility for sensor/MEMS-based technologies in the Midwest. It is complementary to the research and development efforts underway at Ohio research centers and universities and is coupled with training the workforce needed by companies in the industry.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Addressing Critical Infrastructure Needs in Cleveland

A section along the Cuyahoga River known as Irishtown Bend is close to collapse, posing a threat to Cleveland businesses like ArcelorMittal and other companies that rely on the river to do business. Sen. Brown joined Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority President and CEO Will Friedman, and ArcelorMittal Cleveland General Manager Eric Hauge on the Cuyahoga River in August to discuss the need for greater infrastructure support in Cleveland.



Sen. Brown outlined legislation that would ease our nation’s infrastructure deficit, provide for the repair of critical projects, and put Americans back to work. Investments in infrastructure put Ohioans back to work while promoting economic development. His bill would create a national infrastructure bank to provide loans and loan guarantees for critical infrastructure projects of national and regional importance—like repairs to the Irishtown Bend—that create and protect jobs, increase economic competitiveness, bolster exports, and encourage private investment.

Nearly 18,000 jobs and more than \$1.8 billion in annual economic activity are tied to the Port-and-River system, according to the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority.

New Federal Resources to Relocate and Construct the Mayfield Road RTA Station

In December, Sen. Brown announced a new federal grant of more than \$12.5 million, allocated through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) program, which will be used to relocate and construct the Mayfield Road Transit station of the RTA. TIGER grants are used to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects throughout the United States. The project is expected to provide access to the emerging Uptown development and the new Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in University Circle.

Supporting Recovery Act Funds to Bring High-Speed Broadband to Medina County

High-speed broadband access is critical for economic development and job growth. A 151-mile, countywide fiber optic network, which will provide a neutral platform for broadband access, is moving forward in Medina County thanks in large part to Recovery Act funds provided through the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. Sen. Brown urged the U.S. Commerce Department to support the project, which broke ground in March.

In August 2010, Sen. Brown announced that Cleveland-based OneCommunity would receive more than \$44 million in economic recovery funds to build and offer affordable middle-mile broadband service in northeastern Ohio. The project plans to directly connect nearly 800 community institutions to broadband. As many as 5 million people stand to benefit, as do 210,900 businesses. In addition to the nearly 200 jobs this project will create, it will provide a foundation for economic growth and job creation for generations to come.

Supporting Recovery Act Funds for Pier Improvements on the Black River

The diked disposal site at the mouth of the Black River in Lorain has 150 new parking spaces, an observation platform, lighting and a patterned brick paver walkway atop the East Pier or the Mile Long Pier thanks to Recovery Act resources. The Lorain Port Authority controls 5.57 acres of the 58-acre site.

Supporting our Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement

Presenting Overdue or Replacement Medals to Northeast Ohio Veterans

Ohio's veterans have made invaluable contributions to our fight for global security and democracy. Too many veterans return home and struggle to access the services and honors they earned in combat. Following an *Akron Beacon Journal* news report on a success story that spurred dozens of phone calls to his office, Sen. Brown presented overdue or replacement military medals that he secured to nearly 30 additional veterans or their family members in a ceremony at the Summit County Veterans Service Commission in May. The veterans receiving medals hailed from across Northeast Ohio, including Akron, Atwater, Canal Fulton,



Cuyahoga Falls, Doylestown, Massillon, Mogadore, Monroe Falls, North Canton, Northfield Center, Norton, Ravenna, Rootstown, Sebring, Streetsboro, and Uniontown. In honor of Veterans' Day in November, Sen. Brown delivered remarks at the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Cleveland while members of his staff presented overdue medals to seven Medina County veterans and their families. In December, Sen. Brown's staff presented 129 overdue and replacement medals to 23 Northeast Ohio veterans and their family members in Akron.

Ensuring Returning Veterans Receive Job Training & Transition Assistance

The current unemployment rate for veterans aged 20 to 24 is more than 21 percent, meaning more than one in five young veterans cannot find a job to support their family or ease the transition to civilian life. To address this problem, Sen. Brown fought to pass the *Hiring Heroes*

Act of 2011, which was included in a larger bill signed by the President in November, the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*. This new law will ensure broad job skills training for all service members returning home and will expand available job opportunities for veterans. In July, Sen. Brown visited Cleveland State University (CSU) and Youngstown State University (YSU) to call for passage of the bill. At both universities, he was joined by student-veterans who discussed the need to improve and strengthen career pathways for returning service members. The *VOW to Hire Heroes Act* will reduce unemployment among returning veterans by ensuring that each separating service member has access to a transition assistance program. The bill also creates new direct federal hiring authority so that more service members have jobs waiting for them the day they leave the military.

Keynoting the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio's Annual Convention in Canton

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is Ohio's largest law enforcement organization, representing officers at the local, county, state and federal level. Chartered in 1934, the FOP of Ohio is a non-profit organization boasting a membership of over 26,000, with close to 200 local lodges. In July, Sen. Brown delivered the keynote address at the FOP's 77th annual convention in Canton.

Support for a National "Blue Alert" System to Apprehend Criminals Who Injure or Kill Law Enforcement Officers Serving in the Line of Duty

During National Police Week in May, Sen. Brown joined Cleveland-area police officers to announce support for a new bill to create a national "Blue Alert" system aimed at apprehending criminals who injure or kill law enforcement officers in the line of duty. The nationwide alert system would disseminate critical information about the suspect to law enforcement, the public, and the media.



At the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial, Sen. Brown was joined by Sara Winfield of Marysville, whose husband, Brandy Winfield, a deputy in the Marion County Sheriff's Department, was shot and killed while on the job in October 2004. Retired Sgt. Charles Lane, president of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society, and members of Cleveland-area police departments also joined Sen. Brown to discuss the need for a "Blue Alert" system in Ohio and nationwide. Steve Loomis, president of the Police Patrolmen's Association, and Brian Betley, acting president of the Cleveland

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 8, attended as well.

Authoring Legislation to Preserve "Fugitive Safe Surrender"

In April, Sen. Brown introduced legislation aimed at preserving Fugitive Safe Surrender, a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice that allows individuals wanted for non-violent felony or misdemeanor crimes to voluntarily surrender to the law in a safe and non-violent environment. Fugitive Safe Surrender was developed by Cleveland-based U.S. Marshal Peter Elliott in 2004, and is aimed at reducing risk to law enforcement, neighborhoods, and the fugitives themselves.

Federal funding for Fugitive Safe Surrender has come from the U.S. Marshals Service, which recently announced it could no longer afford to continue the program. The bill would place Fugitive Safe Surrender under the auspices of the Attorney General as opposed to the Marshals Service, giving the Attorney General flexibility as to how to administer the program.

Protecting Capacity at Ohio's Air National Guard



The Air Force's C-27J aircraft program is essential not only for national security but also for domestic disaster relief and other critical missions. In October, Sen. Brown visited the 179th Airlift Wing at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) to discuss the implications of the elimination of the C-27J program with the men and women of the 179th. Sen. Brown also toured the base's new Armed Forces Reserve Center and Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE). The C-27J was recently authorized and funded by Congress, and Sen. Brown will continue to push to bring additional C-27J aircraft to the Mansfield ANGB.

Providing Support for Sherriff's Department in Lorain County

In September, Sen. Brown announced a \$489,748 grant that will allow for the hiring of two Lorain County Sheriff's Department deputies. The federal funds are from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program.

New Federal Resources to Protect Lorain County Children

In August, Sen. Brown announced a \$426,467 grant awarded to Lorain County Sheriff's Office to protect children from predators. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Child Sexual Predator Program (CSPP) provides resources to law enforcement agencies to establish and enhance strategies to locate, arrest, and prosecute child sexual predators and exploiters and to enforce state sex offender registration laws. The new resources will help the Lorain County Sheriff's Department work with state and federal law enforcement officers to locate and apprehend sexual predators and help keep children out of harm's way.

Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare

Protecting Expectant Mothers from Outrageous Price Gouging on Critical Drugs

In March, after learning that a critical drug used to prevent pregnant women from delivering premature babies increased in price from \$10-\$20 per dose to \$1,500 per dose, Sen. Brown urged the drug's manufacturer, KV Pharmaceutical, to reverse course on the outrageous price hike and called for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate the company's decision. Taxpayer dollars financed the research and development for this product, which has been used safely and effectively by obstetricians for years.



Sen. Brown joined with expectant mothers and OB/GYNs at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland and St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown to release a letter to the Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) requesting an investigation into the price hike. Following Sen. Brown's intervention, the company decreased the price and the FDA agreed to allow safe and more affordable versions of the medicine to be manufactured.

Discussing New Medicare Benefits With Cleveland, Austintown, and Mansfield Seniors

In January, Sen. Brown visited MetroHealth's Senior Health and Wellness Center in Cleveland to discuss new Medicare benefits made possible by the new health reform law that provide for annual wellness checkups and preventive screenings for seniors at no cost to them. Beginning January 1, 2011, the new health care law also provides for a 50 percent discount on brand-name prescription drug costs for Medicare recipients in the "donut hole"—a gap in prescription drug coverage. Sen. Brown also discussed the new benefits with seniors at the Austintown Senior Center in the Mahoning Valley and with seniors at the People's Community Center in Mansfield.

Approximately 1.8 million Ohio seniors were eligible in 2011 for preventive services and annual wellness check-ups at no cost to the patient thanks to the new health reform law. Fifty-five percent of these beneficiaries are enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug benefit program.

Meeting with Seniors to Discuss Retirement Security at Forums in Youngstown and Chagrin Falls

Sen. Brown has been a strong supporter of Social Security and Medicare and has fought against efforts to privatize either program. In July, Sen. Brown convened a special forum for seniors at Union Baptist Church in Youngstown to discuss protecting Social Security and Medicare for American seniors and spoke at a similar forum at the South Franklin Circle Retirement Community in Chagrin Falls in August. In light of Congressional proposals to raise the Social Security Retirement age, Sen. Brown introduced the *Shared Retirement Sacrifice Act of 2011*, a bill that would require current and future Members of Congress to wait until they reach Social Security retirement age to collect their own congressional retirement benefits.



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Promoting Access to Affordable & Accessible Health Care in Lorain County

Sen. Brown has been a strong advocate for expanding Ohioans' access to affordable and accessible health services. In November, the Lorain County Health and Dentistry broke ground for a new health center in downtown Lorain. The center received more than \$6.6 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administrations (HRSA) Capital Development program.

HHS estimated that the new Lorain center, together with new community health centers in Chillicothe and Springfield, will create 29 health center jobs and 152 construction-related jobs in

Ohio while enabling these health centers to serve an additional 22,575 Ohioans. Community health centers play a vital role in providing preventative health services and cutting costs for medically underserved populations by reducing the likelihood of medical emergencies and advanced medical conditions.

Strengthening Ohio Neighborhoods: Keeping Ohio Families in Their Homes and Helping Seniors Keep the Heat on

Helping Families Facing Foreclosure

As the housing crisis continues to affect Ohio's economy, Sen. Brown remains committed to protecting homeowners from abuse and fraud while helping Ohioans rework their mortgages and stay in their homes. Sen. Brown is also continuing his work with local communities to help them rebuild from the devastation already created by rampant foreclosures. This year, Sen. Brown introduced the *Foreclosure Fraud and Homeowner Abuse Prevention Act of 2011*, to prevent future servicer fraud and errors, improve foreclosure counseling and prevention, and reform oversight of mortgage-based investing.

New Resources for Foreclosure Counseling in Cleveland

Foreclosures continue to plague many Northeast Ohio communities, lowering property values for neighboring homeowners. In June, Sen. Brown announced that \$229,140 has been awarded to the Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, Inc. to provide foreclosure counseling to local families. The National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program funds are awarded on a competitive basis to help prevent foreclosures.



Speaking Out Against the Illegal Practice of Robo-Signing

Robo-signing is a fraudulent and illegal mortgaging practice that involves forging signatures and submitting false affidavits to expedite the foreclosure process. Robo-signing has forced thousands of homeowners into foreclosures and raised doubts about the ownership of hundreds of thousands of mortgages. In July, Sen. Brown joined Cleveland City Councilman Tony Brancatelli and Lou Tisler, Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, to call for a crackdown on robo-signing stating that not only is the act harmful to mortgagees but also to the economy as a whole. Sen. Brown also urged regulators to better protect consumers by releasing information relating to the mortgage servicer settlements.

Helping Seniors Stay Warm Throughout the Winter

To help low-income Ohioans and seniors with rising energy costs, Sen. Brown joined a Cleveland-area senior citizen in October to stand against a proposed plan in the U.S. House of Representatives that would result in Ohio receiving a far smaller portion of home heating assistance funds than it would under a Senate proposal. Bills in the House and Senate both contained similar funding levels for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), but a House proposal made allocation changes that would result in Ohio and other

colder-weather states receiving a smaller percentage of the funds. The Senate's plan relied on a formula that has been used since 1980 to emphasize the needs of colder-weather states like Ohio. Thanks to Sen. Brown's efforts, Ohio will receive more than \$165 million in LIHEAP funds in fiscal year 2012.

Advocating for Minority Communities

Listening to African American Leaders and Supporting Minority Business Development



In July, Sen. Brown hosted a roundtable with local mayors, state representatives, judges, and city council members at the Urban League of Greater Cleveland. Participants discussed job creation, business investment, education, and community redevelopment. In August, Sen. Brown and other local officials celebrated the opening of the Cleveland Minority Business Development Agency Business Center. The new center will help minority-owned businesses create jobs, develop business and marketing plans, and improve management, technical assistance, and financial planning. Sen. Brown worked with the late

Rep. Tubbs-Jones to bring this important center to Cleveland.

Co-hosting a Northeast Ohio Economic Inclusion Forum to Strengthen Minority Business

In August, Sen. Brown co-hosted a Northeast Ohio Economic Inclusion Forum focused on strengthening minority- and women-owned enterprises. Forum participants discussed the challenges facing these enterprises and how existing resources could be leveraged to stimulate economic growth in the Cleveland area.

Swearing-In Federal Judge Benita Pearson in Youngstown

In March, Sen. Brown swore-in the newest judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Judge Benita Y. Pearson, at a ceremony in Youngstown. Judge Pearson is the first African American woman to serve as Federal District Judge in Ohio. A bipartisan 17-member judicial advisory commission assembled by Sen. Brown and retired Ohio Sen. George V. Voinovich originally recommended Magistrate Pearson for the position. Based on that recommendation, in July 2009, Sen. Brown and Sen. Voinovich announced that they would recommend that President Obama nominate Magistrate Pearson to fill the vacancy left by Judge Peter C. Economus. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December 2010.

Supporting El Centro as it Opens Doors to New Building that Serves Hispanic Families

Sen. Brown secured \$584,400 in federal funding that was awarded this year for El Centro de Servicios Sociales de Lorain (Center for Social Services) in Lorain. El Centro provides vital services to Hispanic families and individuals, assisting them with information and referrals, housing, money management, job development and placement, and family violence prevention. The project created 74 construction jobs and helped retain between 15 and 20 permanent jobs.

Supporting Northeast Ohio's Agriculture Economy

Supporting Biomass & the Clean Energy Economy in Northeast Ohio

In June, Sen. Brown announced a \$5.7 million award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that will create up to 1,210 new jobs by enabling farmers in Northeast Ohio to grow a clean energy biomass known as *miscanthus giganteus*. The funding is being awarded through USDA's Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). BCAP is a new program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill that provides financial assistance to farmers to establish, produce, and deliver biomass.

Farmers in Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, and Trumbull counties—as well as in several neighboring counties in Pennsylvania—will be eligible to receive the funds to grow *miscanthus giganteus*, a type of grass that will be converted into biofuels at an Aloterra Energy facility in Conneaut. Sen. Brown wrote a letter of support for the project to the USDA. This new investment will create jobs in Northeast Ohio while supporting production of home-grown, clean energy sources. This project is an example of federal dollars being invested wisely to spur economic development and pave the way for future growth. This investment will create jobs, support our agricultural heritage, and reduce our dangerous and unsustainable dependence on foreign oil.

Hearing from Ohio Farmers in Advance of the 2012 Farm Bill

Agriculture is Ohio's number one industry—with more than one out of every seven jobs tied to this critical sector. To get input from Ohio farmers regarding the upcoming Farm Bill, Sen. Brown held a number of listening sessions with farmers across Ohio. Sen. Brown launched this "Grown in Ohio" listening tour in Chesterland at the Patterson Fruit Farm. Growers from Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne Counties participated in the listening session, along with dairy farmers, sustainable agriculture and conservation representatives, and representatives from the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the Ohio Farmers Union.



Advocating for Federal Resources to Rebuild OARDC in Wooster

Sen. Brown sent a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging him to help rebuild the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), located on The Ohio State University's Wooster campus, which was partially destroyed by a tornado in September 2010. Following the tornado, nearly every building on the campus sustained damage. While most buildings had considerable roof damage, three buildings and seven greenhouses were completely destroyed. Bringing these critical resources back to full capacity is critical for Ohio and for the advancement of agricultural research.

The OARDC has been a crucial link between agricultural producers and world-class researchers and scientists, and is a cornerstone of economic development for the region. A recent study showed that OARDC annually contributes more than \$142 million to the Ohio economy and generates more than 1,576 jobs in the state.

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Northwest Ohio Regional Highlights

Supporting Manufacturing Jobs in Northwest Ohio

Supporting New Investments and Jobs in Northwest Ohio's Auto Industry



Ohio knows how to make things – especially cars. Sen. Brown supported the auto restructure and has worked to bring manufacturing jobs back to Ohio. In October, Ford confirmed that a new engine line will be produced at Ford's plant in Lima. Earlier in the year, Sen. Brown sent a letter to Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally urging increased investments and product commitments in Ohio, citing the state's efficient and productive workforce. While Ford did

not require assistance through the auto restructuring, saving the auto industry prevented damage to the entire supply chain. As a result of stabilizing the auto sector, Ohio is reaping new jobs and investments.

Sen. Brown applauded the May announcement by General Motors that it was adding hundreds of new jobs at its transmission facility in Toledo and the June announcement that it will invest \$47 million into its Defiance Powertrain plant to purchase tooling and equipment to increase volume of components for its Ecotec 1.4 liter engine, an investment that will help retain more than 200 jobs. Also, in November, Sen. Brown welcomed the Chrysler Group's proposed \$365 million investment in the Toledo Assembly Complex which will add 55 management jobs and over 1000 new production jobs. With more than 792,000 Ohio jobs dependent upon the auto industry, Sen. Brown has been an outspoken advocate for Ohio's auto industry and workers.

Preserving the Critical Manufacturing Base of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima

Sen. Brown has been a longtime champion of the Abrams Tank modernization program as well as other projects at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) in Lima.

The Abrams tank is manufactured and refurbished by General Dynamics at the JSMC in Lima. The tank has been used by service members in Iraq and Afghanistan. Following repeated urging from Sen. Brown, the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) voted to preserve funding for the M1A2 Abrams tank modernization program in the Defense Authorization Bill for 2012. He sent letters to the SASC chairman and the Obama Administration urging them to reject plans that would end the M1A2 Abrams tank modernization program.

Supporting Solar Jobs in Northwest Ohio

The Solar Energy Industries Association named Ohio as one of the top states for solar manufacturing capacity in the country. Northwest Ohio is a leader in Ohio's solar energy

economy, but Ohio manufacturers are struggling to compete in an unfair global market. Sen. Brown held a roundtable discussion in October at the University of Toledo Clean Energy Incubator with stakeholders in Northwest Ohio's solar industry to discuss keeping the industry competitive. Participants included panel manufacturers, solar supply chain companies, and job training, economic development, and university representatives.



Earlier in the year, Sen. Brown toured First Solar's solar module production facility in Perrysburg with U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Nicole Lamb-Hale and members of the President's Manufacturing Council. In September, Sen. Brown returned to First Solar, joining Fred Hochberg, chairman and president of the Export-Import Bank of the

United States, to announce funding to support First Solar's exports to Canada, sustaining 500 Ohio jobs.

Announcing New Federal Resources for Cooper Tire to Develop Advanced Tires in Findlay

In August, Sen. Brown announced that Cooper Tire & Rubber Company in Findlay was awarded new federal resources to develop advanced fuel efficient tires. The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy awarded \$1,500,000 to support the Ohio-based research and development project, which is expected to help improve the fuel efficiency of the next generation of vehicles produced by the U.S. auto industry.

Supporting Cooper Tire Workers in Findlay

Following a phone call made to Cooper Tire & Rubber Company CEO Roy Armes, Sen. Brown sent a letter to the company urging Cooper Tire management to work with employees to reach a resolution that will return more than 1,000 workers to the assembly line in Findlay.

Strengthening Trade Enforcement to Protect Northwest Ohio Jobs

Joining Business Owners from Toledo and Bryan to Call for a Crackdown on Chinese Currency Manipulation

Following the passage of the biggest bipartisan jobs bill to clear the Senate in 2011, Sen. Brown visited Quality Tool and Metal Stamping in Toledo to urge House action on legislation to create and protect jobs by cracking down on Chinese currency manipulation. Sen. Brown called for the *Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011*—which he authored and led to passage in the Senate—to be brought for a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives and sent to the President's desk to be signed into law. Sen. Brown's bill cleared the Senate on October 11 by a vote of 63-35. A previous version of Sen. Brown's bill passed overwhelmingly in the U.S. House of Representatives last year.



Currency manipulation is an illegal trade practice in which the Chinese government intentionally devalues its own currency against the United States dollar. This results in artificially expensive American imports to China, and artificially cheap Chinese imports to the United States. This puts Ohio and American manufacturers at a serious disadvantage and makes it more difficult for American companies to compete against Chinese companies. Sen. Brown joined Mike Pasch of Quality Tool and Metal Stamping and Devin Denner, CEO of Chase Brass in Toledo, to outline how

his legislation will help level the playing field for Ohio manufacturers while helping create and protect millions of American jobs.

Protecting Hundreds of Lima Jobs from Unfair Trade Practices

Following a push from Sen. Brown, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) voted to extend anti-dumping duties on nitrogen fertilizer imports from Russia and Ukraine—helping save nearly 240 agriculture-related jobs in Lima. PCS Nitrogen Ohio, L.P., one of the few remaining American producers of solid urea—a type of fertilizer—operates a plant in Lima.

Currently, the ITC imposes anti-dumping duties on urea imported from Russia and Ukraine. The duties were recently up for review at the ITC, and revoking these duties could have led to a renewed flood of unfairly traded Russian and Ukrainian urea imports. Sen. Brown asked the ITC to uphold the antidumping duties in order to preserve jobs in Lima and at other urea producers in the United States.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Working to Advance the Blanchard River Flood Mitigation Study

Sen. Brown has worked tirelessly to advance the Blanchard River flood mitigation project, which is critically important to homeowners and small business owners in Hancock and Putnam Counties. In May, Sen. Brown announced that the project would receive \$1.4 million in funding under the USACE 2011 work plan. In November, he met with USACE officials to press for a faster timeline on the study, and in December, after the river rose dangerously close to flood levels, Sen. Brown again urged the Army Corps to complete work on the initial phase of the project.

Announcing New Federal Resources for Toledo Harbor Dredging

The Toledo Harbor is critical to commerce and business in Northwest Ohio. In May, Sen. Brown announced that more than \$5 million was included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) FY2011 work plan for dredging in the Toledo Harbor.

Welcoming a New CSX Intermodal Terminal in Wood County

Northwest Ohio provides an important gateway for shippers from all across the country to send and sell their goods in the eastern United States. Sen. Brown applauded the opening of the new CSX Intermodal Terminal in North Baltimore. The new facility spans 500 acres and will move

close to 2 million containers and trailers per year. The project has already brought more than 250 jobs to Northwest Ohio. The Terminal is part of the National Gateway Project, which was supported by \$30 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds, a program that originated in the Recovery Act of 2009 that Sen. Brown championed. Sen. Brown wrote to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and urged support of the proposal.

Expanding Broadband in Western Ohio

Reliable broadband access is critical to spurring economic development and creating jobs. In June, Sen. Brown applauded the groundbreaking of a new broadband project, made possible in large part due to funds from the Recovery Act, which will help bring high-speed internet and economic development to 28 counties in Western Ohio. The GigE Plus Availability Coalition project will provide nearly 700 new miles of fiber to its high-capacity network and expand existing broadband services to rural and underserved communities in Western Ohio.

The project was part of the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium, a comprehensive public-private partnership to create statewide plan to expand broadband infrastructure to the underserved and unserved areas of the state. Sen. Brown wrote to Commerce Secretary Gary Locke in support of the proposal.

Supporting Northwest Ohio’s Agriculture Economy and the Environment

Meeting with Local Farmers in Advance of the 2012 Farm Bill



More than half of Ohio’s 88 counties are designated as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Strong rural communities are essential to Ohio’s economic prosperity. As part of his “Grown in Ohio” listening tour – held to receive input from farmers as the Senate began work on the 2012 Farm Bill – Sen. Brown convened a roundtable discussion in August with growers and producers in Custar at Drewes Farm. Participants from across the region discussed implementing a strong and fiscally responsible insurance system for the agriculture industry.

Working to Restore Grand Lake St. Marys

Sen. Brown has continued to secure resources to assist in Grand Lake St. Marys cleanup efforts and has promoted the use of sustainable and innovative solutions. Sen. Brown sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack urging him to support methane digester projects that would reduce the potential for harmful cyanobacteria in Grand Lake St. Marys.

In August, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources to help clean up Grand Lake St. Marys while creating clean energy jobs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$1 million for a methane digester project that will reduce nutrient loading associated with toxic algae blooms,

like the cyanobacteria in Grand Lake St. Marys. The project will separate nutrients from the watershed and convert them into valuable bio-gas. “This project will serve as a national model for an innovative solution to clean up toxic algae blooms, create jobs and provide consumers with a source of clean, domestic energy,” Sen. Brown said. Sen. Brown remains committed to pursuing all possible solutions to restore the lake.

Fighting to Protect Lake Erie from the Threats of Asian Carp and Algae

In July, as the White House hosted a public meeting in Port Clinton regarding Asian Carp, Sen. Brown urged White House Council on Environmental Quality Director John Goss to step up efforts to prevent Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Sen. Brown is a sponsor of the *Stop Asian Carp Act*, which would direct the Army Corps of Engineers to study the watersheds of the Illinois, Chicago, and Calumet Rivers to determine the feasibility and best way to implement hydrologic separation of the rivers from the Great Lakes. The study would address flooding, wastewater, stormwater, and safety concerns. The study would also look at alternative pathways for barge and recreational boating traffic.

The bill would also direct the U.S. Geological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor and survey the waters of the Great Lakes basin to identify additional threats from Asian Carp, and to identify means of prevention. Sen. Brown supports a physical separation of the Mississippi River basin from the Great Lakes as the best long-term solution to prevent the further spread of Asian carp

Lake Erie also faces the challenge of harmful algal blooms, which were particularly widespread in 2011. Sen. Brown has asked Dave White, Chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the US Department of Agriculture to visit the Lake Erie basin with him, as the agency continues to work to reduce sources of pollution that contribute to harmful algal blooms.

As part of his efforts to protect Lake Erie, in August, Sen. Brown announced \$4.5 million in Great Lake Restoration Initiative grants. The grants will help to ensure that future generations of Ohioans will be able to enjoy Lake Erie.

Medicare and Healthcare

Discussing New Medicare Benefits with Toledo Seniors



In January, Sen. Brown visited Monroe Street United Methodist Church in Toledo to discuss new Medicare benefits made possible by the new health reform law that provide for annual wellness checkups and preventive screenings for seniors at no cost to them. As of January 1, 2011, the new health care law also provides for a 50 percent discount on brand-name prescription drug costs for Medicare recipients in the “donut hole”—a gap in prescription drug coverage. Sen. Brown also discussed the new benefits with

seniors at the People's Community Center in Mansfield in February.

Approximately 1.8 million Ohio seniors were eligible in 2011 for preventive services and annual wellness check-ups at no cost to the patient thanks to the new health reform law. Fifty-five percent of these beneficiaries are enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug benefit program.

Protecting Expectant Mothers from Outrageous Price Gouging on Critical Drugs

In March, after learning that a critical drug used to prevent pregnant women from delivering premature babies increased in price from \$10-\$20 per dose to \$1,500 per dose, Sen. Brown urged the drug's manufacturer, KV Pharmaceutical, to reverse course on the outrageous price hike and called for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate the company's decision. Taxpayer dollars financed the research and development for this product, which has been used safely and effectively by obstetricians for years.



Sen. Brown joined with expectant mothers and OB/GYNs at Toledo Hospital to release a letter to the Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) requesting an investigation into the price hike. Following Sen. Brown's intervention, the company decreased the price and the FDA agreed to allow safe and more affordable versions of the medicine to be manufactured.

Calling for Increased Federal Involvement to Investigate the Clyde Cancer Cluster

Sen. Brown is fighting to provide more federal resources to investigate disease cluster areas in Clyde that have claimed the lives of at least four Northwest Ohio children. In May, Sen. Brown questioned National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins on what work the agency is doing to investigate disease clusters such as the Clyde pediatric cancer cluster. In February, Sen. Brown called on the US Environmental Protection Agency and Center for Disease Control to offer increased federal assistance to provide answers to children and families in the area. In September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it was launching further study of the Clyde cancer cluster.

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Southeast Ohio Regional Highlights

Job Creation and Economic Development

Accelerating the Cleanup and Finding a Path Forward for the American Centrifuge Project in Piketon



Sen. Brown led the fight in Congress to successfully accelerate the Piketon cleanup by more than 20 years and to create new jobs. Now, he is working closely with USEC and the Department of Energy to ensure approval of a loan guarantee for the American Centrifuge Project. USEC's application for a loan guarantee would help build a state of the art uranium enrichment technology at the former Department of Energy (DOE) Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon. Federal resources are critical to the long-term success of the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon. If successful, the ACP could bring as many as 4,000 construction jobs and 400 long-term full time jobs to Piketon.

Sen. Brown, along with Sen. Portman, also announced bipartisan legislation that would utilize existing resources to provide \$150 million in RD&D funds for the project. This bill would utilize Piketon "tails" as an asset to help secure additional R&D funds while reprogramming other Department of Energy funds to Piketon.

Saving U.S. Postal Service Facilities and Jobs in Appalachian Ohio

Following an announcement by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) that it would study the possibility of closing post offices and consolidating mail processing facilities, in November, Sen. Brown's office representatives attended public hearings in Athens, Zanesville, and Steubenville on the proposals.

At the urging of members of the U.S. Senate, including Sen. Brown, the USPS announced in December a five-month moratorium on closing postal facilities. Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *Postal Service Protection Act* aimed at returning the USPS to fiscal solvency while preserving Saturday mail delivery, restricting the closure of rural and urban post offices, and protecting mail processing facilities.

Supporting Coshocton Workers at America's Oldest Flag Manufacturing Company

In July, Sen. Brown's legislation that would ensure that flags purchased by the Federal government are entirely made-in-America unanimously passed the U.S. Senate. The legislation supports the workers of the nation's oldest and largest producer of American flags, Annin and

Company. Located in Coshocton and established in 1847, Annin and Company currently employs 500 workers nationwide. The Federal government is currently required to purchase flags made from 50 percent American-made materials. The *All-American Flag Act* would require the government to buy flags that are entirely produced with American-made materials.

Fostering Economic Growth in Appalachia

In August, Sen. Brown addressed Appalachian economic development leaders at the “Positioning Appalachia: Economic Growth Strategies for Success” conference hosted by Ohio University’s Voinovich School. The conference focused on the future of manufacturing in Ohio, business incubation, rural economic development, and new market opportunities for Appalachian Ohio.

Sen. Brown discussed the important role of anchor institutions like the Voinovich School, his work to connect Appalachian Ohio with job opportunities in emerging clean energy industries, and how the 2012 Farm Bill can help agricultural producers and small businesses.

Helping a Marietta Company Cut through Red Tape

Cool Containers, LLC, a Marietta-based company, produces a specialized container to ship high-value pharmaceuticals and other temperature sensitive materials. But this high-tech company was unable to secure authorization from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) until Sen. Brown intervened.

With Sen. Brown’s help, Cool Containers was able to cut through bureaucratic red tape. In May, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved the PharmaPort 360™ temperature controlled shipping container, developed and manufactured by Cool Containers, LLC in Marietta, for use in commercial and military air transport. The FAA airworthiness certification follows more than 1½ years of formal testing and review of design, systems integration, manufacturing practices, and documentation.

Supporting Economic Development Efforts in Scioto County

In September, following pressure from Sen. Brown, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revised Portsmouth’s air quality designation, verifying that the region has met federal standards.

The revised status will help foster job creation and boost economic development.



In May, Sen. Brown urged the Obama Administration to designate Scioto County and surrounding southern Ohio counties as areas that have attained clean air quality standards. A revised designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will help foster job creation and boost economic development in the region.

Helping Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs

Standing up for Appalachian Small Businesses

Small business lending is critical to our economic recovery and Sen. Brown is working to help small business owners access capital. In the fall of 2011, Sen. Brown's office convened two small business workshops in Southeast Ohio to connect small and minority-owned businesses with federal resources and opportunities.

In Zanesville and Nelsonville, small business owners joined members of Sen. Brown's staff, the Internal Revenue Service, the Small Business Administration (SBA), the U.S. Export Assistance Center, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to learn about important new tax incentives, loan programs, energy incentives, and resources available to help increase export sales. Sen. Brown's office has held more than 30 small business seminars throughout Ohio.

Helping the Voinovich School at Ohio University Spur Small Business Growth

Small businesses are engines of economic growth. In April 2011, Sen. Brown announced that \$894,358 in federal funds was awarded to the Voinovich School at Ohio University to spur small business growth in 19 Southeastern Ohio counties. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding will allow the Voinovich School to leverage private investment, expand business assistance, create jobs, take new products to market, and improve the regional economy.

Promoting Business Incubators

Business incubators give entrepreneurs the tools to create new small businesses by teaching best practices, minimizing expenses, and sharing resources. In March, Sen. Brown authored an op-ed in the Times-Reporter of Dover-New Philadelphia outlining his efforts to promote business incubators. In September 2010, Sen. Brown announced that more than \$2.3 million was awarded to the Tuscarawas County University Branch District of Kent State and the Community Improvement Corporation of Tuscarawas County. The funds will help construct a technology business incubator to support the region's entrepreneurs and its emerging high-tech workforce.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Meeting with Local Farmers in Advance of 2012 Farm Bill



More than half of Ohio's 88 counties are designated as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Strong rural communities are essential to Ohio's economic prosperity.

As part of his "Grown in Ohio" listening tour—held to receive input from farmers as the Senate begins work on the 2012 Farm Bill—Sen. Brown convened rural development roundtables with local leaders in Chillicothe and New Philadelphia. In Chillicothe, growers from throughout Appalachia joined Sen. Brown, including dairy farmers, sustainable agriculture and conservation representatives, and representatives

from the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and the Ohio Farmer's Union.

At Kent State University's Tuscarawas campus in New Philadelphia, Sen. Brown convened representatives from 10 Ohio counties, including small business leaders, education professionals, and representatives from national, state, and regional entities. Participants discussed a variety of issues affecting rural Ohio's economic development such as job creation, workforce development, shale gas development, broadband internet access, and infrastructure maintenance, repair, and improvement.

Supporting New Businesses in Food Production

Ohio's rich agricultural heritage can help solve problems of the 21st century. In October, Sen. Brown announced funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that will allow the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) to increase support for local business development, entrepreneurship, and new businesses making healthy local food. Sen. Brown also helped ACEnet and Smuckers begin a partnership to further these goals.

In November, Sen. Brown introduced legislation to support family farms, expand farming businesses, create rural jobs, and invest in local and regional food economies.

Rural Infrastructure

Expanding Broadband to 34 Southeast Ohio Counties

Broadband bridges the digital gap that too often disadvantages rural Ohio—undermining business development and compromising timely access to basic public services like fire, police, and health care. That is why Sen. Brown fought for funding for a project to expand access to broadband for 34 counties in Appalachia.

The project will deploy more than 1,900 miles of fiber optic network to over 705,000 households and connect nearly 600 community anchors. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce awarded funds for the project to the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium, which Sen. Brown helped to facilitate after he fought to devote \$2.5 billion worth of Recovery Act funding for rural broadband projects. During Senate consideration of the Recovery Act, Sen. Brown authored an amendment to increase USDA funding by \$2.5 billion to target rural and underserved communities.

With new or increased broadband access, Appalachian communities will be able to compete on a level playing field to attract new businesses; schools can create distance learning opportunities; medical professionals can provide cost-efficient remote diagnoses and care; and business owners can expand the market for their products to better compete in the global economy.

Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare

Leading the Fight Against Prescription Drug Abuse

Along with many community leaders in Southeast Ohio, Sen. Brown is concerned about prescription drug abuse and is working to combat this growing problem in Ohio. Prescription pain medications, such as Oxycodone, morphine, and methadone are largely responsible for increasing numbers of overdoses and deaths in Ohio. In recent years, accidental prescription drug overdoses have killed more Ohioans than auto accidents.



Following a letter of support from Sen. Brown, Adams and Scioto Counties were designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in October, enabling the counties to receive new resources to combat prescription drug trafficking and production.

Sen. Brown will continue to work to protect Ohio families and keep Ohio communities strong by eliminating the drug diversion epidemic in our state. This fall, Sen. Brown visited The Counseling Center in Portsmouth where he joined state and local leaders to announce a federal grant to provide job training for clients overcoming alcohol and drug addiction.

Standing with Marietta Seniors

In August, Sen. Brown convened a special forum with seniors in Marietta at the Glenwood Retirement Community to discuss protecting Social Security and Medicare.

Sen. Brown has long been active in efforts to protect Social Security from privatization, and has worked to ensure that seniors can continue to afford necessities like prescription drugs despite the lack of cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA) that Social Security recipients have faced for the past two years. Sen. Brown strongly opposes raising the retirement age for Social Security due to the high number of Ohioans who are engaged in physically demanding work—on a shop floor, production line, or farmland. In light of proposals to raise the Social Security Retirement age, Sen. Brown introduced the *Shared Retirement Sacrifice Act of 2011*, a bill that would require current and future Members of Congress to wait until they reach Social Security retirement age to collect their own congressional retirement benefits.

New Federal Designation for Genesis Hospital in Zanesville

Sen. Brown helped Genesis Hospital in Zanesville secure a new designation that will help it maintain jobs and continue providing needed health care services to Ohioans in the region.

The new classification will allow the hospital, which employs approximately 3,000 Ohioans, to receive increased Medicare reimbursements, resulting in an additional \$6 million per year for the hospital. Genesis earned the status as a rural hospital providing services to an underserved rural Appalachian area of Southeastern Ohio.

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Southwest Ohio Regional Highlights

Job Creation and Economic Development

Redeveloping the Former Moraine GM Plant

Following the news that GM would close the Moraine Assembly Plant in 2008, Sen. Brown



worked closely with Motors Liquidation Company (MLC) – the Environmental Response Trust established in GM’s bankruptcy – and the Ohio Department of Development to ensure that redevelopment of the site supported the facility’s status as a major employer in the region. In October 2010, Sen. Brown wrote to the CEO of Motors Liquidation Company urging him to work with the city and state on the sale to a purchaser who would redevelop the property and create jobs.

In 2011, Sen. Brown and U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, with developer IRG and the City of Moraine, unveiled plans for the redevelopment of the former GM Moraine site. IRG anticipates the creation of 1,000-2,000 jobs as a result of the site’s redevelopment. Sen. Brown remains committed to site redevelopment that brings jobs to the region.

Saving U.S. Postal Services Facilities and Jobs in Southwest Ohio

Following an announcement by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) that it would study the possibility of closing post offices and mail processing facilities, Sen. Brown and U.S. Representatives Steve Chabot and Jean Schmidt wrote to the USPS Postmaster General in October to highlight the importance of Cincinnati’s Dalton Avenue mail processing and distribution center. A representative from Sen. Brown’s office also attended a public hearing to oppose a possible consolidation of the Dayton Processing & Distribution Facility into the Columbus Processing & Distribution Center.

At the urging of members of the U.S. Senate, including Sen. Brown, the USPS announced in December a five-month moratorium on closing postal facilities. Sen. Brown also cosponsored the *Postal Service Protection Act* that seeks to return the USPS to fiscal solvency while preserving Saturday mail delivery, restricting the closure of rural and urban post offices, and protecting mail processing facilities.

Fighting to Locate a Retired NASA Shuttle in Dayton

In November, Sen. Brown sent a letter to the Inspector General of NASA questioning the agency’s selection process for the placement of space shuttles from its retiring Space Shuttle program. Investigations revealed inconsistencies in scoring as well as errors in calculation that excluded Dayton from the list of eligible sites. Sen. Brown has been a strong advocate for

locating a space shuttle at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He fought to amend the NASA Authorization Act – which named criteria for selecting sites – to keep Dayton in the running. His effort extended eligibility for cities like Dayton that have made significant contributions to human space travel technology

Growing Innovation, Connecting Ohio Businesses to Global Markets

Building on Ohio’s legacy of innovation, grounded in Ohio’s entrepreneurs and workers, world-



class universities, and research institutes, Sen. Brown believes that Ohio can successfully emerge from the recession and help fuel job growth and innovation in the United States. Sen. Brown participated in a September forum in Cincinnati sponsored by the Global Innovation Forum in partnership with the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Dayton Development Coalition, European-American Chamber of Commerce, and TechSolve. The forum focused on connecting American workers and businesses to the global marketplace and policies to support job growth, helping the United States remain

the world’s innovation leader.

Urging an End to the NFL Blackout Rule

For many of their home games this season, Bengals fans in Southern Ohio have been denied the opportunity to watch their team compete. There is no doubt that the current economic downturn has made it more difficult for Ohioans to make ends meet, much less afford tickets to an NFL game. In November, Sen. Brown urged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reconsider the Sports Blackout Rule, a regulation that allows sports leagues, like the NFL, to blackout broadcasts of local sports games when the game does not sell out. With the cost of a single ticket to a Bengals game at approximately \$72, Sen. Brown believes that the taxpayers should have broadcast access to their teams.

Helping Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs

Connecting Small Businesses in Southwest Ohio to Federal Resources

Sen. Brown’s office convened three small business workshops in southwest Ohio this fall to connect small and minority-owned businesses with federal officials, resources, and opportunities. In Dayton, Wilmington, and Cincinnati, small business owners joined members of Sen. Brown’s staff, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Small Business Administration (SBA), the U.S. Export Assistance Center, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to learn about important new tax incentives, loan programs, energy incentives, and resources available to help increase export sales.

Supporting Small Business Technology Innovation

Ohio’s small businesses and workers have a strong legacy of technological advances in the aviation and aerospace industries. In December, Sen. Brown announced that four Southwest Ohio small businesses in Cincinnati, Middletown, and Dayton were awarded federal resources by the Small Business Administration’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small

Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. SBIR is a competitive program that encourages American-owned and independently-operated small businesses to reach their technological potential by awarding them crucial funds to aid in a technology's startup and development stages. Together with the STTR program, the SBIR program has delivered more than \$233 million to 244 Ohio small businesses to develop innovative technologies and grow and create jobs over the previous three decades. Sen. Brown pushed for the renewal of the SBIR/STTR program, which cleared the Senate as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act of 2011*.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Improving Flight Options at CVG

With reports in February and March of Delta Air Lines raising fares and reducing flights, Sen. Brown called on Delta to address high ticket prices and fewer flights at Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG).

In a letter to Delta CEO Richard Anderson, Sen. Brown noted a dramatic decrease in flight levels and fewer direct flights from CVG that are hurting Southwest Ohio consumers and the Cincinnati business community. He also urged the Kenton County Airport Board to focus on attracting new airlines, lowering ticket costs, and increasing passenger traffic.



Fixing the Brent Spence Bridge

In July 2011, the American Society of Civil Engineers released a report that said failing infrastructure could cost the U.S. \$2.7 trillion in lost productivity and income in trade in the coming decades. To address this problem, Sen. Brown announced new legislation in Cincinnati that would put Ohioans back to work repairing and building roads, bridges, ports, and railways.

Sen. Brown's bill would create a National Infrastructure Bank to provide loans and loan guarantees for critical infrastructure projects. In August, Sen. Brown visited Cincinnati to discuss how his bill would increase economic competitiveness and leverage public and private funding to create jobs and repair critical projects like the Brent Spence Bridge.

Supporting our Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement

Fighting to Retain Jobs at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB)

Sen. Brown has continued to advocate for the preservation of critical jobs and missions at Wright-Patt. As the largest single-site employer in the state, WPAFB will continue to play a vital role in the region's economic growth.

Following reports that Air Force leadership of the Enterprise Logistics Program could be transferred from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, Sen. Brown demanded that jobs remain in Dayton. In a letter to Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, he requested a meeting with the Air Force and asked for an analysis detailing the reasoning for the proposed transfer. The Advanced Logistics Systems Center was established at Wright-Patterson in 1967 and is critical in the development of the Air Force's automated logistics management activities.

Maintaining an Air Force Program Office in Miami Valley

Following the U.S. Air Force's issuance of a stop work order to the contractor managing the Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS), Sen. Brown asked Air Force Secretary Michael Donley to maintain the ECSS program office – along with its workforce and expertise – at Dayton's WPAFB. The ECSS supports approximately 500 jobs in the Miami Valley and is aimed at modernizing Air Force computer systems used for logistics, acquisition, personnel, and supplier management. The Miami Valley's experienced and highly-skilled workforce is the best choice to advance this important program, and Sen. Brown will continue to work with the Air Force to keep jobs in Dayton.

Ensuring Veterans Safety at Dayton VA Dental Health Clinic

Sen. Brown has been working with the Dayton VA, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, and the Senate Veterans Committee since first learning of allegations of unhygienic practices at the Dayton VA Dental Health Clinic. In February, the Dayton VA Medical Center (VAMC) issued a report indicating that a practitioner was using unhygienic practices for 18 years—exposing veterans to blood-borne pathogens because dental equipment was not sterilized.

In March, Sen. Brown met with Sec. Shinseki to raise his concerns. Following this meeting, Sec. Shinseki announced a leadership change at the Dayton VAMC. Sen. Brown then called for a thorough organizational review and additional concrete changes at the Dayton VAMC.

In April, Sen. Brown convened an official hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in Dayton. The hearing, which included testimony from U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, examined a report released by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs Inspector General on mismanagement of the dental clinic at the Dayton VA Medical Center.

Honoring Southwest Ohio Veterans by Replacing Overdue Medals



Replacing overdue medals is a small but significant way to honor and repay the tremendous work Ohio's veterans have undertaken on our behalf. In May, Sen. Brown presented overdue and replacement military medals to a Hamilton County veteran in a ceremony at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Sen. Brown presented Samuel Reeves, age 89, with seven overdue medals and four replacement medals that he received when he was discharged.

Providing Housing for Senior, Disabled, and Homeless Veterans

Sen. Brown continues to fight to ensure safe and affordable housing for all veterans. In November, Sen. Brown announced more than 600 new housing units to be built on VA land in the Dayton and Chillicothe regions. More than 300 of the units will be located on the Chillicothe and Dayton VA Medical Center campuses. By locating these housing units on medical center campuses, veterans will have convenient access to care and treatment designed to help them attain long-term independence and self-sufficiency.

Healthcare

Keeping Children in Southwest Ohio Healthy



A healthy and productive adulthood begins with a healthy childhood. As one of the nation's premiere hospitals, Cincinnati Children's provides critical care to Ohio's children. In August, Sen. Brown announced that new federal resources were awarded to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to strengthen immunization services while creating jobs. The work done by Cincinnati Children's doctors and researchers is used by the CDC to better understand best practices for vaccine effectiveness, to create new immunizations, and to make vaccine policy recommendations.

In October, Sen. Brown announced federal resources to help Cincinnati Children's maintain its resident physicians program. The exceptional residency training programs taking place at Cincinnati Children's can lead to better doctors and healthier patients in Hamilton County and across Ohio. Sen. Brown has led the fight in Congress to expand research into pediatric illnesses and their treatments, and has worked to increase funding to train medical professionals that treat children.

Strengthening Southwest Ohio Neighborhoods

Working to End Foreclosure "Robo-Signing" Practices in Dayton

In 2010, investigations revealed that many mortgage servicers were wrongfully foreclosing on homeowners and not following existing foreclosure procedures and laws by "robo-signing" foreclosure. In August, Sen. Brown visited Dayton and outlined landmark legislation to prevent future servicer fraud and errors, improve foreclosure counseling and prevention, and reform oversight of mortgage-based investing. The *Foreclosure Fraud and Homeowner Abuse and Prevention Act of 2011* would expand access to foreclosure prevention services, while increasing protections for home-owners and investors in mortgage-backed securities.

Advocating for Minority Communities

Standing with the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati

In May, Sen. Brown convened a meeting with local mayors, state representatives, judges, and city council members at the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati. The group discussed the economy, job creation, infrastructure investments, and the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and its local impact on communities in the Greater Cincinnati area.



Providing Minority Students with Cutting-Edge Research Opportunities

The Air Force Minority Leaders Program matches small businesses with students and teachers from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and select research institutions to perform critical research used at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In May, Sen. Brown called for the continuation of the program to give students at Wilberforce University, Central State University, and the University of Dayton access to cutting-edge research opportunities, to improve the knowledge of university professors on defense research needs, and to assist in addressing essential issues confronting the U.S. Air Force today.

Listening to Concerns Affecting African American Communities in Southwest Ohio

Sen. Brown met with members of the African American clergy community at Carmel Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati in September to learn about issues affecting the African American community. Sen. Brown, a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, discussed ways to protect seniors, create jobs, bolster affordable housing, and improve health care access and educational opportunities for African Americans.

Honoring Cincinnati Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were African American servicemen of the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) who trained at Alabama's Tuskegee Army Air Field during World War II. They constituted the first African American flying unit in the U.S. military and went on to become the only squadron of the USAAF that did not lose a bomber to enemy planes. In advance of their National Conference, Sen. Brown's office attended the sendoff for the Cincinnati chapter of Tuskegee Airmen National Convention.

Celebrating the Life of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth

When Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth arrived in Cincinnati in the early 1960s, access to education, jobs, housing, and America's middle class was limited based on race. Rev. Shuttlesworth helped to transform our nation into a place where all hard-working people can have a fair chance at living out the American Dream. Sen. Brown authored a resolution honoring the life of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and praising his tireless efforts in the fight against segregation and his steadfast commitment to the civil rights of all people. The resolution passed the Senate unanimously in October.

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Legislation and Issues

The following pages provide an overview of Sen. Brown's major legislative actions in 2011.

Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy

Sen. Brown continues to focus on job creation and economic recovery. From promoting manufacturing to growing small businesses to fighting for fair trade and increased exports to supporting Ohio's workers, Sen. Brown is working to create jobs and stimulate economic development.

Made in Ohio: Supporting Manufacturing Jobs

The manufacturing sector is vital to Ohio's economy. Though the state has the seventh largest population in the nation, it is third in manufacturing output. That's why Sen. Brown has focused on policies and initiatives that support Ohio's manufacturers and workers.

As the demand for goods has not fully rebounded, manufacturers have been faced with numerous challenges that impede a full economic recovery. These include access to credit, workforce training, and unfair global competition. Sen. Brown has focused on legislation to address these structural challenges, and to leverage public and private resources to create economic development opportunities that take advantage of Ohio's many strengths.

Creating a National Manufacturing Strategy

Manufacturing accounts for \$1.6 trillion of U.S. GDP – nearly 12 percent of the U.S. economy. It accounts for nearly three-fourths of the nation's industrial research and development. Four manufacturing industries alone account for 56 percent of private sector R&D: computers and electronics, chemicals, aerospace, and autos.



Manufacturing jobs also pay 20 percent more, on average, than service jobs. Each manufacturing job supports four to five other jobs throughout the U.S. economy and one in six private sector jobs is in or directly tied to manufacturing.

Yet as a nation, we have been without a focused strategy for maintaining and growing our manufacturing base. To address

this deficiency, Sen. Brown and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) introduced the *National Manufacturing Strategy Act*, which would require the Executive Branch to submit an annual assessment and strategy for developing the supply chain, workforce, business climate, technologies, and export strategies needed to support and grow our manufacturing sector.

Supported by a number of manufacturing industry associations, Sen. Brown also secured language in the FY2012 Appropriations bill that advances the development of this this national strategy.

Industry Partnerships to Train Workers for 21st Century Jobs

In 2007, Sen. Brown and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) were the first members of Congress to highlight the need to tailor federal workforce training investments to regional sector and industry partnerships. As a result, they authored the bipartisan *Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act*. This bill addresses the disparity between high unemployment rates and a shortage of skilled workers for many emerging industries.

Despite the nation's high unemployment rate, there is still demand in today's labor market for skilled workers. This is particularly true for "middle-skill" jobs that require more than a high school degree but less than a four-year college degree. These jobs make up nearly half of America's labor market and provide good compensation for workers. The *SECTORS Act* would organize stakeholders connected to a regional industry—multiple firms, unions, education and training providers, and local workforce and education system administrators—to develop plans for placing people in jobs in that industry.

Cluster-based economic development has already seen great success in places like Silicon Valley, with its focus on high-tech computing, shipbuilding in Maine, food packaging in Pennsylvania, and tourism in central Florida. Sectors job growth has the potential to revitalize Ohio's economy in fields like clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology, in addition to flexible electronics.

Making Clean Energy Products in America



Ohio manufacturers have taken advantage of the *Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit* to help qualified employers retool for clean energy manufacturing. Sen. Brown has worked with the Great Lakes Wind Network, the Blue-Green Alliance, and others to introduce legislation to extend this effort to incentivize new manufacturing jobs. The *Security in Energy and Manufacturing (SEAM) Act* would renew the tax credit to help spur job creation.

This effort is modeled on an approach The Ohio State University (OSU) has taken in working with the Department of Energy on developing new technologies to develop advanced gas turbines. In July, Sen. Brown announced new resources for OSU to build upon this promising research.

Utilizing American Manufacturing for American Infrastructure Investments

Since the passage of the last transportation reauthorization bill, more than \$10 billion has been spent on new public transit vehicles, track, and supporting equipment that is manufactured overseas. With an estimated 27,600 transit buses, 4,000 passenger rail cars and locomotives, and 220 light rail cars in need of replacement over the next six years there is a clear opportunity to grow this industry in the United States.

In order to maximize domestic job-creation in transit investments, Sen. Brown introduced the *Strengthening Manufacturing and Rebuilding Transit (SMART) Act*, which would give preference to domestic transportation supply chains when applying for competitive transportation infrastructure grants. Sen. Brown believes that by investing in domestic supply chains, we expand our public transit and essential freight rail services while maximizing job creation in the manufacturing industry.

The SMART Act would increase transparency of waivers of Buy American requirements by centralizing information on a single website, and by authorizing the Department of Transportation to work with the Department of Commerce to help fill gaps in the domestic supply chain. As a result of Sen. Brown's advocacy, in October, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank announced that both agencies would make connecting American manufacturers and suppliers with transportation work a new priority.

Investing in American Jobs

In December, Sen. Brown introduced the *Invest in American Jobs Act*, new legislation that would give preferences to American-made steel, iron, and manufactured goods in taxpayer-financed projects. Sen. Brown believes that at a time when Congress is addressing the budget deficit, we need to make sure that American taxpayer dollars are being invested in American-made products.

Protecting Our Troops with American-Made Steel

Sen. Brown believes our troops should have the strongest, best-made materials and equipment when entering conflict zones. He also believes without a strong industrial base, our country becomes dependent on other nations' supply chains, which leaves the American military vulnerable to counterfeit or faulty parts and equipment. That is why he continues to fight for American-made steel and titanium in our defense supply



chain. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, Sen. Brown fought against the weakening of Buy American standards on specialty metals, like titanium.

He has also worked with Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) to tighten the definition of steel produced in the United States in order to retain more jobs. Sen. Brown has proposed new legislation requiring the Department of Defense to identify suppliers all the way through the supply chain in order to weed out counterfeit goods and unsafe products.

Making American Flags in America

A small but symbolic statement can sometimes remind Congress that manufacturing matters. That is why the Senate unanimously passed legislation authored by Sen. Brown to require any U.S. flags purchased by the government to be 100 percent American-made.

Currently, federal law simply requires that American flags purchased by the United States government contain, at minimum, 50 percent American-made products or components. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the value of imported American flags to the United States last year was \$3.2 million, with \$2.8 million coming from China. According to the Congressional Research Service, there are at least eight All-American flag manufacturers in the United States, including Coshocton's Annin and Company, the oldest and largest producer of American flags in the United States.

Sen. Brown's bill takes a stand against importing materials for our most treasured of patriotic symbols, while ensuring that taxpayer funds are not used to purchase foreign-made flags.

Advocating a Sensible Approach to Regulations

In March, the EPA issued a rule that subjected thermal sand reclamation – a process to remove contaminants resulting from metal casting – to *Commercial/Industrial Solid Waste Incinerators* (CISWI) despite the fact that the EPA never considered thermal sand reclamation when setting the CISWI standards. After meeting with members of the Ohio Cast Metals Association and hearing their concerns with the proposal, Sen. Brown wrote to the EPA requesting a clarification that the regulations did not apply to the industry's machinery. The EPA agreed and subsequently noted that the proposed regulations would not apply to thermal sand reclamation units.

In response to concerns voiced by Ohio workers and pulp and paper mill operators, Sen. Brown joined several Senate colleagues in writing to the EPA to clarify that the so-called Boiler MACT regulations would not apply to the burning of biomass in boilers. Once again, the EPA agreed with Sen. Brown's argument that the agency should not be discouraging the responsible use of biomass for domestic energy production.

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Promoting Ohio Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Small businesses – which create nearly two-thirds of new jobs – are critical to Ohio’s economic health and future. That is why Sen. Brown is fighting to cut red tape for small businesses, expand access to credit, and foster small business growth and innovation.

Cutting Red Tape for Small Businesses

After hearing from many Ohio small business leaders who were concerned about the potential burden and compliance costs created by 1099 reporting requirements Sen. Brown co-sponsored legislation that passed in April to that would repeal the onerous “1099” reporting requirement for small businesses. The “1099” provision would have required businesses to file a separate 1099 tax form for all third-party vendor payments in excess of \$600.

Expanding Access to Credit for Ohio Small Businesses



Small businesses create two out of every three new jobs, making small business lending critical to our economic recovery. But small business owners faced disproportionate challenges in the aftermath of the recession and credit crisis, including difficulty accessing capital. To address this challenge, Sen. Brown was instrumental in passing the *Small Business Jobs Act*, a major initiative signed into law in 2010 aimed at unfreezing the credit market for small businesses.

In August, Sen. Brown announced the availability of \$55 million to expand access to credit for Ohio’s small businesses. These funds were made available through the *State Small Business Credit Initiative*, a provision in the *Small Business Jobs Act*. The Ohio Department of Development is currently administering these funds, which are expected to leverage up to 10 times the award amount in private investments.

Spurring Small Business Growth with New Markets Tax Credits

In February, Sen. Brown announced new community development finance tax credits worth \$35 million under the *New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC)* program. The NMTC program is designed to stimulate economic and community development while creating jobs and attracting private sector investment capital. These tax credits are provided to investors who make investments in hard-hit communities through community development organizations like the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund which will use the NMTC to provide financing to small businesses such as minority or women owned start-ups, community facilities such as child care and health care centers, and manufacturing plants in areas of significant job loss.

Creating a Minority Business Development Agency in Cleveland

In September, Sen. Brown joined Mayor Frank Jackson, Rep. Marcia Fudge, and the Greater Cleveland Partnership at the opening of the Minority Business Development Agency's (MDBA) Cleveland office. This opening was made possible through a \$1.1 million grant Sen. Brown secured that will help minority-owned businesses gain access to contracting and capital opportunities with major corporations.

Supporting Small Business Innovation

Reauthorizing the Small Business Innovation and Research Program (SBIR)

The Small Business Innovation and Research Program (SBIR) is a competitive program that encourages American-owned and independently operated small businesses to reach their technological potential by awarding them crucial funds to aid in a technology's startup and development stages. In November, a Senate impasse on the *Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) Reauthorization* was broken and passed as part of the *National Defense Reauthorization Act*.

The House of Representatives has still not reauthorized SBIR. The pending expiration of the program and a number of short-term extensions over the previous years has created a climate of uncertainty that is not conducive to small business job growth.

Fostering Growth through Innovation and Business Incubators

Sen. Brown has been a strong proponent of business incubators as economic engines, particularly in communities that have weathered economic distress. Business incubators – such as the Youngstown Business Incubator, the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet), the University of Toledo's Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator, and Cleveland's JumpStart, Inc. – promote regional economic development by providing entrepreneurial companies with an array of business support resources and services.



A 2008 study by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) found that business incubators are an effective public-private approach that produces new jobs at a low cost to the government. For every \$10,000 in EDA funds invested in business incubators, an estimated 47-69 local jobs are generated. In rural areas, business incubator projects are the most effective type of EDA project.

Sen. Brown has worked to provide the EDA with greater authority to fund business incubators through *The Business Incubator Promotion Act*, which seeks to ensure that the most economically distressed areas have opportunities to receive EDA funds. The Act also promotes

business incubators by both constructing new incubators and expanding and supporting existing incubators.

Advancing Economic Development

In June, Senate Republicans filibustered legislation reauthorizing the Economic Development Administration (EDA) – legislation never before considered controversial. Since 2008, the EDA has leveraged \$33.6 million in Ohio, supporting the retention or creation of more than 8,200 jobs, including in some of the most economically distressed communities. Yet, the previously bipartisan and noncontroversial EDA bill was defeated by filibuster, with some offering amendments to eliminate the agency entirely.

During Senate debate, Sen. Brown was a vocal champion of EDA’s work in Ohio, especially its efforts in providing communities in Moraine, Wilmington, and Ashtabula with resources to leverage greater private investments. These early funds from EDA are often critical in generating private economic activity to retain and create jobs in hard-hit communities.

The federal government immediately responds to natural disasters. Similarly, the Economic Development Administration is the first responder when economic disasters, like the DHL closing in Wilmington, devastate a community.

Sen. Brown offered an amendment to the EDA bill that would give communities severely affected by auto restructurings priority consideration for EDA activity.

Sen. Brown remains committed to defending the most economically distressed communities and any attempts to eliminate EDA.

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Trade and Global Competitiveness

Sen. Brown believes that Ohio workers and companies can compete with any others in the world, but that they deserve access to a level playing field. That is why he is fighting to enforce trade laws and to help Ohio companies sell their products in the global marketplace. He is a leading proponent of tough and responsible trade policy that holds trading partners accountable to the rules and prevents a race-to-the-bottom on labor, environmental, and food safety standards.

Holding China Accountable

Chinese currency manipulation costs Ohio jobs when manufacturers in our state face a flood of Chinese imports. Sen. Brown successfully authored and passed through the Senate bipartisan legislation that will crack down on China's unfair currency manipulation. Despite opposition from leaders of both parties, Sen. Brown's bill represents the largest bipartisan jobs bill passed by the Senate in 2011.

Currency manipulation is an illegal trade practice in which the Chinese government intentionally devalues its own currency against the United States dollar. This results in artificially expensive American exports to China and artificially cheap Chinese imports to the United States. Currency manipulation puts Ohio and American manufacturers at a serious disadvantage and makes it more difficult for American companies to compete against Chinese companies.



Sen. Brown's bill, *The Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011*, will create and protect jobs by leveling the playing field for American manufacturers at no cost to taxpayers. The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 63-35 in early October. A recent report found that addressing Chinese currency manipulation could create 2.25 million American jobs over the next decade.

Although Sen. Brown's bill passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, the House has yet to bring the bill forward for a vote. Sen. Brown is committed to working towards House passage and sending the bill to President Obama in 2012.

Putting American Workers and Manufacturers First

In October, Sen. Brown led Senate passage of renewed Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) for workers and retirees. These long-time, bipartisan programs provide job training and health care assistance for workers who have lost their jobs due to unfair foreign competition. Sen. Brown demanded that TAA be renewed before new trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama were considered by the U.S. Senate. In May, Sen. Brown made this request to President Obama in a letter signed by 43 of his Senate colleagues. The President honored Sen. Brown's request and submitted the trade agreements only after the debate on TAA was settled with the House.

Rejecting More NAFTA-Style Trade Agreements

American workers have seen too many trade agreements that fail to provide the jobs promised. That is why Sen. Brown voted against three new NAFTA-style trade agreements in 2011. Although NAFTA and CAFTA created some jobs, when balanced against the jobs lost the result has been massive job and trade deficits. Citing a history of failed expectations from trade agreements like NAFTA, Sen. Brown voted against ratification of trade agreements with South Korea, Panama, and Colombia.

Sen. Brown led the House opposition to the Dominican Republic – Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in 2005, falling just two votes shy of blocking the agreement after the vote was held open for nearly two hours. The author of the book *Myths of Free Trade* and described as “Congress’ leading proponent of American manufacturing,” Sen. Brown also stood up to President Clinton during debate of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994.

Sen. Brown was especially concerned that a provision in the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement would undermine American manufacturing. The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement allows up to 65 percent of the content of manufactured goods from Korea to be produced by third-party nations like China or North Korea. To address the disparity in current trade agreements, Sen. Brown introduced the *Reciprocal Market Access Act*, which would instruct our trade negotiators to eliminate foreign market barriers before reducing U.S. tariffs. This bill would also provide enforcement authority to reinstate the tariff if the foreign government does not honor its commitment to remove trade barriers. And finally, the legislation instructs the International Trade Commission to conduct an assessment on the impact of a prospective trade agreement on market opportunities and barriers for U.S. products or services that are affected by that agreement

Defending Ohio Workers and Companies Against Unfair Chinese Trade Practices

In addition to passing landmark currency legislation, Sen. Brown continues to advocate for tough enforcement of our trade laws by the Obama Administration and federal trade agencies.

In March, Sen. Brown testified before the International Trade Commission (ITC) on behalf of Ohio aluminum extruders like Aerolite Extrusions in Youngstown, Hydro Extrusions in Sydney, and Kaiser Aluminum in Heath. Since 2007, Chinese aluminum imports have risen, with the Chinese gaining a 25 percent market share during a time of decreased demand. As a result, U.S. aluminum extrusion companies have been forced to lay off workers, shutter plants, reduce production, and eliminate shifts for workers. On May 3, 2011, the ITC voted to impose duties on certain aluminum extruders for five years, which will help Ohio producers retain and create jobs.

In July, Sen. Brown announced that the Commerce Department would protect candle industry jobs in Norwich and Leesburg against a flood of Chinese imports. Since 2008, Sen. Brown has lobbied the Commerce Department on behalf of candle producers forced to compete against subsidized imports. In addition, too many Chinese candle imports evade duties through transshipment schemes. That’s why Sen. Brown co-sponsored the *ENFORCE Act*, new legislation to

crackdown on duty evaders by providing the U.S. Customs and Border Control with new tools to defend American producers.

Sen. Brown's advocacy also helped retain 240 jobs at a Lima fertilizer manufacturer. The company had been forced to compete against a flood of imports sold below market value. In November, as a result of Sen. Brown's urging at the ITC, duties on nitrogen fertilizer imports from Russia and Ukraine were extended, leveling the playing field for this Ohio company.

As a member of the Commerce-Science-Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, Sen. Brown has supported an active export promotion and trade enforcement agenda. In 2011, he worked to provide the Office of United States Trade Representative (USTR) with an additional \$5 million in funding to enforce trade law and address the Chinese government's hoarding of rare earth materials – a policy that adds significant costs to Ohio manufacturers like Electrodyne in Cincinnati and Graftech in Cleveland.



Sen. Brown has also supported Ohio's solar industry by pushing the Obama Administration to defend solar companies and workers from China's massive subsidies to its solar exporters. Imports of Chinese solar panels increased 1,593 percent between 2006 and 2010. Without aggressive trade enforcement, Ohio solar



producers will be forced to continue to compete on an unlevel playing field.

New Enforcement Tools in the Toolkit

In addition to these initiatives, Sen. Brown has introduced legislation to strengthen the ability of the U.S. to enforce trade law. He introduced the *Trade Enforcement Priorities Act*, legislation that would give the federal government more authority to address trade barriers that undermine American workers and domestic manufacturing by reinstating "Super 301" authority. "Super 301" authority requires the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to examine and report on the most egregious trade barriers that adversely affect American exports. If the USTR identifies a measure as a "priority foreign country practice," it is required to initiate a full Section 301 investigation. The *Trade Enforcement Priorities Act of 2011* would require the USTR to analyze trade barriers in the National Trade Estimates Report to determine which have the most adverse effect on U.S. exports and employment.

Because Sen. Brown recognizes that identifying new markets for agricultural products is essential to the success of Ohio agriculture, he has constitutently worked to reduce unfair trade barriers expand markets for farm producers. In August, Sen. Brown sent a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and the Secretary of Agriculture urging USTR and the USDA to work together to address unsubstantiated food safety concerns that were limiting U.S. access to Chinese and Japanese beef markets.

Challenging the WTO

Sen. Brown has also been a Senate leader on efforts to address adverse rulings at the World Trade Organization (WTO). In April, a WTO Appellate Body ruled against the application of anti-subsidy laws to address unfair Chinese subsidies. U.S. anti-subsidy laws have helped American industries in a number of sectors – including steel, paper, magnets and tire industries – remain competitive in the face of subsidized competition from China. In response, Sen. Brown led a letter to Ambassador Ron Kirk signed by 21 of his colleagues, including Sen. Rob Portman, requesting the Administration take all steps to ensure U.S. countervailing duty laws remain fully applicable to China.

Upholding Country of Origin Labeling

A long-time proponent of product labeling, Sen. Brown is fighting back against a WTO ruling that would prevent certain agricultural imports from having to comply with new country-of-origin labeling (COOL). Sen. Brown fought to pass COOL requirements as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. In December, Sen. Brown urged the Obama Administration to appeal the WTO decision because he believes Ohio consumers deserve to make informed decisions when it comes to food they put on the table.

Promoting Ohio Exporters at the President’s Export Council

As a member of the President’s Export Council, Sen. Brown has advocated on behalf of Ohio companies seeking to grow their exports and reach new markets. To complement his work on the council, Sen. Brown has organized the Ohio Export Advisory Group, which held two meetings in 2011.

In January, Sen. Brown and Alex Fischer, CEO of the Columbus Partnership, arranged a meeting at The Ohio State University (OSU) with Undersecretary of Commerce Francisco Sanchez and two dozen Ohio exporters.



In April, Sen. Brown hosted Ambassador Ron Kirk, the U.S. Trade Representative, at a meeting with Northeast Ohio exporters held at the Cleveland Port Authority. Following the meeting, Sen. Brown and Ambassador Kirk toured ArcelorMittal’s Cleveland Works plant, one of the most efficient steel plants in the world. Trade enforcement is critical to

ArcelorMittal’s success in supplying the U.S. auto and appliance industries and reaching new markets.

Through the President’s Export Council, Sen. Brown supported new initiatives, including Export-Import Bank financing, supporting trade capacity among small and medium-sized enterprises, and improving transportation infrastructure. [Back to Table of Contents](#)

Workforce Development and Support for Workers

The economy has been particularly tough on Ohio workers. Families are less secure, with median wages remaining stagnant and retirement planning increasingly uncertain. Sen. Brown has pushed to support the middle class by helping unemployed workers train for new jobs in high-growth industries, initiating more layoff aversion strategies, extending critical long-term unemployment insurance, and protecting the long-term unemployed from hiring discrimination.

Industry Partnerships to Train Workers for 21st Century Jobs

In 2007, Sen. Brown and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) were the first members of Congress to highlight the need to tailor the federal workforce training system to foster the development sector and industry partnerships. They came to this conclusion because too many employers talked about their struggle to find skilled workers, while too many workers struggled to find jobs. The *Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act* addresses the disparity between high unemployment rates and a shortage of skilled workers for many emerging industries.

Despite Ohio's unemployment rate, there is still demand in today's labor market for skilled workers. This is particularly true for "middle-skill" jobs that require more than a high school degree but less than a four-year college degree. These jobs make up nearly half of America's labor market and provide good compensation for workers. The *SECTORS Act* would organize stakeholders connected to a regional industry—multiple firms, unions, education and training providers, and local workforce and education system administrators—to develop plans for growing that industry.

Cluster-based economic development has already seen great success in places like Silicon Valley, with its focus on high-tech computing; shipbuilding in Maine; food packaging in Pennsylvania; and tourism in central Florida. Sectors job growth has the potential to revitalize Ohio's economy in fields such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, biotechnology, and flexible electronics.



Preventing Layoffs

One of the best ways to address unemployment is to prevent it. That's why Sen. Brown is an original sponsor of *The Layoff Prevention Act*, which would prevent layoffs and job losses by providing new incentives for companies that avoid lay-offs. By utilizing short-time compensation, employers could reduce all employees' hours by a percentage, rather than laying off a portion of their workforce. Workers would then be compensated for lost wages through existing unemployment insurance programs.

Sen. Brown believes that with a challenging jobs picture, short-time compensation provides workers with a paycheck instead of depending solely on unemployment insurance and enables businesses to avoid retraining and rehiring efforts by retaining skilled and loyal workers.

Supporting Out-of-Work Ohioans and Reducing Costs for Business

It is critical to extend a lifeline of support to Ohioans who have lost a job through no fault of their own. With so many Ohioans unemployed, it is vital they receive the tools necessary to stay afloat throughout their job search. Unemployment Insurance is a critical resource that enables unemployed Ohioans to put food on the table, pay the rent, and tend to basic health needs.

To ensure the long-term solvency of the unemployment insurance program, Sen. Brown is an original cosponsor of the *Unemployment Insurance Solvency Act*. This bill would provide an immediate solution to ensuring the continuation of unemployment benefits to the jobless, prevent a tax increase on local employers, and encourage long-term state fiscal responsibility. It would waive the requirement that states charge local employers a higher tax for the next two years – saving Ohio businesses an estimated \$256 million. It would also waive the state's interest payments to the federal government over the same period. After the waivers expire and the economy improves, states would be given more flexibility in determining how best to replenish the unemployment funds.

Additionally, unemployed workers must be given a fair shot in the job market. Sen. Brown is an original sponsor of *The Fair Employment Opportunity Act*, which would outlaw hiring discrimination based on one's employment status. Although employers should have the right to staff according to their needs, preemptive discrimination against the jobless not only harms those most in need of employment but can also arbitrarily deny employers with workers who are eager to contribute to the economy.

Protecting the Health and Well Being of Workers

In 2009, 4,340 workers – an average of 12 each day – died on the jobsite. While workplace fatalities have decreased by more than 65% since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970, too many Americans are still exposed to life-threatening job risks.

Sen. Brown is an original sponsor of the *Protecting America's Workers Act*, which would extend OSHA protections to certain employees who are currently not covered by the Act, such as public employees. Additionally, the bill would enable the Secretary of Labor to assess the safety standards of agencies that are not overseen by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Finally, it would improve transparency, make it easier for whistleblowers to come forward, and increase penalties for serious, willful and criminal violations.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

Today, women earn about 77 cents for each dollar earned by men. Sen. Brown supports the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex by enhancing enforcement of equal pay requirements. He is also a cosponsor of the *Fair Pay Act of 2011*, which would prohibit discrimination on wages based on sex, race, or national origin.

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Agriculture & Rural Development

As Ohio's first Senator to serve on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry in more than forty years, Sen. Brown is honored to represent our state's farmers and rural communities. Also a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Food and Drug Administration, Sen. Brown is working to promote and support policies that advance rural economic development and job creation in the small towns and agricultural communities that are all too often overlooked and underserved. Sen. Brown is also supporting family farmers throughout Ohio by retooling the farm safety-net, championing reforms to crop insurance that keep money in the hands of farmers, and creating opportunities for direct marketing of local food.

Advancing Agriculture and Opportunities for Farmers

Sen. Brown spent 2011 gathering the views of Ohio farmers and residents of rural communities during his *Grown in Ohio* listening tour, and he translated Ohioans' voices into legislative proposals for the 2012 Farm Bill. In



Chesterland, Chillicothe, New Philadelphia, Custer, Cleveland, and Columbus, Sen. Brown met with farmers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders to discuss energy development, improving farmers' risk management tools, and increasing production and consumption of locally grown food. These listening

sessions guide Sen. Brown's agenda and enable him to make sure our nation's food, agriculture, and rural policies work for Ohioans.

Reforming the Federal Farm Safety Net

With record rainfall in Ohio, 2011 was a trying year for Ohio farmers. Because soggy fields delayed spring planting for weeks and severe storms wreaked havoc across the state, Sen. Brown and the Ohio delegation worked successfully with Governor Kasich to secure an emergency designation for 21 Southern Ohio counties. This designation has provided these counties with access to additional federal resources for ongoing clean-up and recovery efforts.

At *Grown in Ohio* listening sessions, Ohioans stressed the need to improve farm safety net programs so they are simple and efficient, providing farmers support only when they need it most. Specifically, many Ohio farmers said that with volatile prices and rising input costs, a revenue-oriented program like the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program that Sen. Brown crafted and successfully included in the 2008 Farm Bill, would be a better tool for managing that risk than the traditional suite of farm programs.

In response, Sen. Brown worked closely with Ohio farmers to develop a policy proposal that provides farmers the risk management tools they need while maintaining participants' reliance on private crop insurance. The product of this collaboration was the Aggregate Risk and Revenue Management (ARRM) program that Sen. Brown introduced with Sens. John Thune (R-SD), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Dick Lugar (R-IN) in September.

Saving nearly \$20 billion in taxpayer dollars, ARRM streamlines three existing farm programs and overhauls the ACRE program to make it more simple, efficient, and responsive. ARRM quickly became the foundation for Agriculture Committee discussions about the future of farm programs and to date remains the only concrete, bipartisan proposal for farm program reform that provides significant savings to taxpayers and has received support from farm and non-farm communities alike.

While working to reform federal farm policies and the crop insurance system so they work for farmers, Sen. Brown continues to support stringent payment limitations that ensure farm program benefits go to family farmers and not large corporate interests. Sen. Brown is a cosponsor of the bipartisan *Rural America Preservation Act* which saves taxpayers more than \$1.5 billion by limiting farm payments

Improving Crop Insurance

Another consequence of 2011's wet spring was that many Ohio farmers could not remove their cover crops and plant their staple crops. As a result, many Ohio farmers missed a critical crop insurance deadline. In response, Sen. Brown and Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) called on the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) to provide flexibility so that farmers who implemented conservation practices were not penalized due to inclement weather. RMA announced in June that it would grant this request and allow affected Ohio farmers to remain eligible for crop insurance.

At Sen. Brown's *Grown in Ohio* listening sessions, Ohio farmers repeatedly stressed the need for reliable crop insurance products that work for all types and sizes of farms. Sen. Brown has long worked to make sure crop insurance is an affordable and a beneficial investment for farmers and taxpayers alike.



Many Ohio farmers who participate in federal crop insurance and have a history of good performance became eligible in January for up to \$25,000 in rebates due to crop insurance reforms made in 2010 negotiations between the USDA and private insurance companies. These rebates arose from Sen. Brown's efforts – started during the 2008 Farm Bill debate – that helped push USDA to negotiate with 16 crop insurance companies. These negotiations will generate \$6 billion in savings over the next 10 years. Of the \$6 billion in savings generated, USDA used \$4 billion for deficit reduction and \$2 billion to support farmers and farm conservation through programs such as this rebate.

In the fall, Sen. Brown led a letter sent by nine senators calling on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to follow the recommendations of a 2011 independent study commissioned by the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). This study recommended changes to the methods used to calculate crop insurance premiums for Midwest corn and soybean producers, who pay a higher premium than they should. In response, the USDA announced that it would begin to update its methodology for setting crop insurance premium rates to ensure that corn and soybean producers throughout the Midwest pay lower, fairer rates. In Ohio, the methodology adjustments announced should reduce corn farmers' rates by seven percent and soybean farmers' by nine percent on average. Farmers will see cash savings this year.

Building New Markets for American Agriculture

Despite economic challenges nationwide, the farm economy has remained strong as U.S. production capacity continues to increase and agricultural exports are at record levels. Identifying new markets for American agricultural products and new revenue streams for farmers is essential to continuing this record of success. From bio-based products and renewable energy to export markets and local foods, Sen. Brown has been working to expand opportunities for all Ohio farmers.

Farm Based Renewable Energy

With energy costs soaring, our country needs a bold and innovative approach to reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Ohio farmers and rural communities are integral to building, growing, and implementing the fuels and technologies that will power the clean energy economy.

Sen. Brown has been a consistent advocate for farm-based renewable energy. In May, American Freedom Energy (AFE), Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers, the Soybean Council, and Clean Fuels Ohio held an event with the USDA to bolster efforts to install blender pumps and make alternative fuels available in Northwest Ohio.

In June, Sen. Brown announced a \$5.7 million award from USDA to support a Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) project in Ohio and Pennsylvania that will create up to 1,210 new jobs. BCAP provides financial assistance to farmers to establish, produce, and deliver biomass for domestic energy production. Agricultural producers in Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, and Trumbull Counties applied to participate in BCAP in the fall of 2011 and the program is now underway.

Developing a Bio-based Products Industry

Ohio's emerging bio-based industry links two of Ohio's two strongest sectors, agriculture and manufacturing, to make new products such as soy-based greases, ink and toner, and plastic substitutes. At Sen. Brown's invitation, Denny Hall – the assistant director of the Ohio Bio Products Innovation Center (OBIC) and a sixth generation farmer – testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee. Following this hearing, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, visited Ohio State University to learn how the bio-based product industry is creating jobs and Sen. Brown held a *Grown in Ohio* listening session focused on the challenges Ohio bio-based companies face.

Bolstering Production and Consumption of Ohio-Grown Foods

Local and regional agriculture is a major economic driver for the rural economy. By supporting our state's family farms we can expand farming businesses, create rural jobs, and invest in local and regional food economies.

For each dollar that consumers spend on food, less than \$0.16 goes back to the farmer. Supporting opportunities for farmers to sell their products



directly to consumers or through shorter local supply chains means that more of a consumer's dollar stays in Ohio and on the farm, where it is invested in local jobs and helps the local economy. A recent study shows that if northeast Ohio's residents and businesses spent 25 percent of their food dollars on local farms and businesses, 27,500 new jobs could be created while increasing economic output by \$4.2 billion and generating \$126 million in local and state taxes.

That is why Sen. Brown introduced the *Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act*. This legislation, designed to be a part of the Farm Bill, is a comprehensive package of reforms that would help Ohio farmers and ranchers by addressing production as well as marketing and distribution needs. The bill would also prioritize consumer access to healthy, fresh food through direct sales.

Protecting Natural Resources

Our nation's land and water conservation programs provide the tools and resources necessary to create parks and recreation areas and preserve these precious natural resources. Sen. Brown remains committed to preserving native wildlife and habitats and safeguarding our lands and waters for future generations.

Protecting Native Grassland and Swampland

Saving the integrity of unused, native soils is an important step in the preservation of the Ohio landscape. In Sen. Brown's agriculture safety net proposal (ARRM), he also included an important proposal that would save native sod. "Sod saver" rules would make land previously not used for crop production ineligible for commodity support programs – encouraging farmers to not subject this native soil to the rigors of farming. Preserving our state's farmland and wildlife habitats is good for our environment and for agriculture.

Improving the Water Quality of Grand Lake Saint Marys

For several years a toxic, blue-green algae has been growing in the waters of Grand Lake St. Marys, leaving the lake unsafe for swimming and contributing to a decline in tourism that has led to increased economic hardship for local businesses. Sen. Brown has worked to secure support for water quality efforts for the Grand Lake St. Marys region. These efforts encourage farmers to use best practices – such as cover crops and buffer strips – that will prevent erosion and run-off while preserving the long-term health of the lake.



In the fall, Sen. Brown announced funding for a methane digester project to reduce nutrient loading associated with toxic algae blooms. The funding, awarded by the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program will help Quasar, an Ohio energy company, bring this innovative technology to Grand Lake St. Marys. This project will serve as a national model for an innovative solution to clean up toxic algae blooms while creating jobs and providing consumers with a source of clean, domestic energy. Grand Lake St. Marys has been an economic anchor of Mercer and Auglaize counties, and Sen. Brown remains committed to pursuing all possible solutions to restore it.

Creating Opportunities for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Fighting for Competition and Transparency

To ensure competition, producers require open, transparent markets and protection from unfair contracts. Sen. Brown is fighting to ensure that the USDA fully implements provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill that would set new rules to promote openness and transparency so that farmers can deal fairly with the livestock and meat packing industries.

Growing the Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers



Because Sen. Brown puts a high priority on helping beginning farmers and ranchers continue, start, and build family farming and ranching operations, he cosponsored the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act* which extends, improves, and strengthens efforts to help beginning farmers obtain education and training, necessary financial resources and credit, assistance for practicing sound conservation, and adequate income insurance and risk management.

Supporting Agricultural Research

Modern agriculture is faced with multiple challenges. By 2050, agricultural production must double in order to feed the global population. Historically, investment in agricultural research has been the foundation for our country's agricultural success. That is why Sen. Brown continues to support agricultural research and is a cosponsor of the *Charitable Agricultural Research Act*, which creates agricultural research organizations to facilitate private sector contributions to agricultural research. Additionally, Sen. Brown fought for stable support for agricultural research in future years and called on the Secretary of Agriculture to help rebuild the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) on the Ohio State University's Wooster campus, which was partially destroyed by a tornado in late 2010.

Improving Food Safety

Each year, food-borne illness strikes 48 million Americans, hospitalizing and killing thousands. Signed into law on January 4, 2011, the *Food Safety Modernization Act*, which Sen. Brown supported, gives the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority and resources to improve our nation's food safety system and better protect Ohioans from getting sick.

Sen. Brown fought to ensure that the law requires the FDA to establish a product tracing system and develop additional recordkeeping requirements for foods determined to be "high risk." Presently, the FDA is conducting two pilot projects to explore how FDA and the food industry can quickly trace foods back to the common source of a food borne illnesses outbreak.

An essential component of the *Food Safety Modernization Act* is sustained resources to fully implement the law and increase the number of food inspectors. With his position on the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and the Food

and Drug Administration, Sen. Brown has successfully prioritized continuing critical support for food safety.

Building Strong, Vibrant Rural Communities

Strong rural communities are essential to Ohio's economic prosperity. By closing the skills gap, rebuilding our infrastructure, and expanding agriculture's role in the clean energy economy, we can strengthen rural Ohio's competitiveness in the 21st century. That is why, as Chair of the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Job Creation, Rural Economic Development and Renewable Energy, Sen. Brown is committed to building strong, vibrant towns and rural communities in Ohio.



Creating Jobs in Rural Ohio

More than half of Ohio's 88 counties are designated as "rural" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sen. Brown recognizes that rural America faces great challenges in a fragile economy. That is why Sen. Brown is working — in agriculture, clean energy, aerospace, manufacturing, entrepreneurship and more — to connect Ohio's strengths, rebalance the economy, foster job creation, and rebuild our middle class.

Sen. Brown is fighting to make sure that job opportunities in rural America grow. This means working with energy companies in Appalachia to encourage the hiring of Ohioans to fill the tens of thousands of jobs being promised in developing Ohio's natural gas resources.

With Sen. Brown's support, this year the U.S. Economic Development Administration announced a Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Award to Ohio for development of a "Northeast Ohio Speed-To-Market Accelerator." This project, a collaboration between Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition, Lorain County Community College, and JumpStart seeks to create jobs by decreasing the time it takes for new products to make it to market. This project is a prime example of how Ohioans and the federal government are working together to create jobs, innovate, and re-energize the rural Ohio economy.

Promoting Rural Small Business Growth

One effective way to stimulate economic growth for middle-class families is to invest in small businesses, which are the largest source of jobs nationwide. Rural small businesses have a unique position in the economy, but in the current economic downturn, small businesses in rural areas have struggled to make the investments required for long-term growth and innovation. That is why Sen. Brown supported legislation – passed on a bipartisan basis in December – that reauthorizes funding for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) to set aside a portion of federal research and development support for competitive grants to small businesses pursuing growth and innovation for the technologies of tomorrow. Since the inception of this program in the 1980s, more than 3,000 investments throughout Ohio have provided in excess of \$1 billion to Ohio small businesses.

As small businesses in rural regions have more trouble securing credit and developing a large consumer base, there are entrepreneurs who may never be able to realize their dream of starting a business. That is why Sen. Brown has supported the Historically Underutilized Business Zone Empowerment Contracting Program (HUBZone), which provides small businesses in qualified areas with preferential access to federal contracting opportunities. With many HUBZones set to expire, Sen. Brown supported the *HUBZone Protection Act* so small businesses can continue to qualify for HUBZone opportunities in the years to come.

Maintaining Infrastructure and Community Investments



With tight state and county budgets, Sen. Brown has maintained support for key accounts that enable locally-identified priorities and projects to continue. Specifically, Sen. Brown has supported funding Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the CDBG Small Cities program at stable levels because investment in decent housing and community development is vital.

Clean water and functioning sewer systems that help drive economic growth throughout Ohio by attracting new businesses and residents are essential to any community, but disproportionately expensive for small towns to maintain. That is why Sen. Brown has continued to support the USDA's and the EPA's work to help rural communities finance critical water and waste water infrastructure improvements. As a result of awards made in 2011, many Ohioans, including people in Muskingum, Delaware, Guernsey and Portage Counties, will have improved access to clean, safe drinking water.

Connecting Ohio with Broadband and Innovative Technology

Sen. Brown recognizes the potential that high speed internet offers to rural communities. With reliable, affordable internet becoming increasingly essential, Sen. Brown has worked to ensure the right investments in infrastructure, like rural broadband, are made to improve the quality of life for rural residents and enable small businesses to expand and flourish.

With broadband, historically isolated rural communities are linked to the world, opening new markets for business, educational opportunities for all ages, and improved access to healthcare through new tele-health technologies. The Village of Stafford in Monroe County is one example of broadband investments being made to serve rural communities. In August, Sen. Brown announced that the USDA's Rural Utilities Service awarded grants to provide wireless broadband service to the community to make faster requests for emergency medical crews.

Broadband bridges the digital gap that too often disadvantages rural Ohio, but progress is being made through the numerous broadband awards made to Ohio companies and communities through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. For example, Sen. Brown helped to secure funding in 2010 that will expand access to broadband for 34 counties in Appalachia. This on-going project, when complete, will deploy more than 1,900 miles of fiber optic network to connect nearly 600 community anchors.

Addressing the Challenges of Rural Education

Rural schools face unique challenges and can provide unique benefits to students. These challenges are diverse and can include small enrollments, geographic isolation, federal and state education funding inequities, limited access to advanced courses, and challenges in recruiting and retaining effective teachers and leaders. Rural schools are also often disadvantaged when applying for competitive grant programs as they may lack the resources of larger school districts.

As Ohio is home to 127 Appalachian school districts, it is important that we take steps to reduce these inequalities. To assist rural schools, Sen. Brown worked with his colleagues and the Department of Education to ensure that there was a fair rural preference in the Investing in Innovation grant. As a result of this effort, the Department of Education has taken steps to ensure the needs of the rural community are better understood by grant reviewers. Additionally, Sen. Brown co-sponsored legislation that would establish the Office of Rural Education Policy inside Department of Education. The legislation would also require the Department of Education to evaluate the effect that proposed rules and regulations would have on rural schools. These efforts will help ensure that all Ohio students – regardless of district- are being provided with the highest quality of education.

Keeping Post Offices Open for Business

Post offices are often at the heart of small towns and provide services not available anywhere else for rural residents. Recognizing their importance, Sen. Brown is working to keep post offices across Ohio open and solvent. That is why Sen. Brown wrote to Postmaster General Patrick Donohue outlining concerns with closures, which could lead to significant job losses, delayed mail, and deteriorated service. Sen. Brown also sent office representatives to public hearings to stand with local residents in opposition to closures.

In December, the Post Office agreed to keep 10 processing centers and 120 postal offices in Ohio open through May to permit time for Congress to act. Committed to a long term solution that will keep postal service doors open and free of taxpayer subsidies, Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Postal Service Protection Act*, which would address billions of dollars of overpayment into the independent government agency's pension and retirement programs and remove restrictions that prevent post offices from providing non-postal services at postal facilities.

Encouraging Collaboration and Regional Approaches to Economic Development

In December, Sen. Brown met with Ohio's County Commissioners and County Engineers in Columbus. From community leaders, he heard about the challenges of running counties and towns on tight budgets. In this meeting, Sen. Brown emphasized the pressing need to create jobs, the importance of forming public-private partnerships, collaborating across county lines, and how best to leverage the strengths of Ohio's communities.

Sen. Brown fought successfully for a Rural Innovation Initiative that will prompt the USDA to adopt a more locally-driven approach to supporting economic development and job creation in rural communities while creating more collaboration among towns and counties. Sen. Brown also worked to maintain current levels of support for the Appalachian Regional Commission, which was created in 1965 to address persistent poverty and economic despair in Appalachia. The commission is a trusted and unifying voice in an underfunded and under-serviced region.

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Building the Middle Class

Sen. Brown is a firm believer that we must work to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to achieve a better life for themselves and their families. That's why he is fighting to promote economic opportunity, provide an economic safety net for those who need it, and ensure that America's children are protected.

Supporting Families

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Ohioans should not pay more taxes than they owe. That's why Sen. Brown introduced the *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Act of 2011*. VITA programs offer free tax help to individuals who cannot afford professional assistance. Federal support has enabled community VITA programs to reach more taxpayers and has resulted in more deserving families receiving tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2009, VITA centers prepared millions of tax returns and brought back more than \$1.6 billion in tax returns to working families.



The VITA Act would enable eligible Community VITA Programs to reach more taxpayers while ensuring continuation of service at the nation's 4,500 existing VITA tax sites.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Sen. Brown is a champion of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program which provides money to states, territories, and Indian tribes for distribution to local agencies to support a wide range of community-based activities designed to reduce poverty. CSBG is a significant source of funding for the nationwide network of Community Action Agencies. Fifty (50) community action agencies in Ohio serve approximately 800,000 people in each of our state's 88 counties. Local programs funded by CSBG include job training and job placement assistance, transportation assistance, meals for homebound seniors, prescription assistance, food pantries, and child care.

Reducing Hunger and Increasing Access to Healthy, Fresh Foods

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), about one in six Ohio families suffers from food insecurity – meaning that they routinely lack access to healthy, nutritious food. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Senate Hunger Caucus, Sen. Brown remains dedicated to combating hunger and making sure Ohioans have access to healthy, nutritious foods.

Combating Hunger

With the economic downturn, Ohio food banks are seeing increased demand for their services. At the same time, donations and commodities available to food banks have declined. That's why



in July, Sen. Brown wrote to the U.S. Agriculture Secretary urging him to use existing funding to purchase and distribute additional foods through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), ensuring that fewer Ohio families have to go hungry. TEFAP serves as a safety net for many Ohio seniors and families by providing nutritious food—often through local food pantries and food banks. Sen. Brown visited the Cleveland Foodbank in December.

Increasing Access to Affordable, Healthy Foods

Recent studies have found that there are nearly 25 million Americans who have limited access to fresh, healthy foods and grocery stores. To address this, Sen. Brown joined his Senate colleagues in introducing the *Healthy Food Financing Initiative*. This legislation would increase healthy food outlets for our nation’s food deserts – areas devoid of healthy food options or grocery stores.

Combating Childhood Hunger

Improving School Meals and Childhood Nutrition

Many children from low-income families depend on school for more than an education. For children living below the poverty line, schools also provide a dependable source of nutritious food. Each day, more than 31 million children receive their lunch through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, authored by Sen. Brown and signed into law in December 2010, makes investments in our national effort to eradicate childhood hunger and improve the nutrition of our children with healthier school meals. Throughout this year, Sen. Brown has worked to make sure the new law utilizes the most advanced nutritional standards and best serves the needs of Ohio’s children.

Providing Access to Nutritious Food All Year Long

Four out of every ten children in Ohio qualify for free or reduced-price lunches but hunger persists when school ends. That is why Sen. Brown supports the Summer Food Service Program – which provides breakfast, lunch, or a snack for children under 18 as a critical way to address the potential lack of nutritious food during the summer months.

In January, Sen. Brown spoke at Ohio’s first-ever Summer Food Service Program Summit at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Although Summer Food sites are located throughout the Buckeye state, only ten percent of children who receive nutrition assistance during the academic year participate in summer meal programs. At this summit, Sen. Brown joined leading anti-hunger advocates from across Ohio to discuss how we can ensure that Ohio children don’t go hungry during the summer break.

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Education

Ensuring that all Americans have access to high-quality education will lead to stronger communities, a stronger middle class, and a stronger nation. Sen. Brown has worked to improve the delivery of education for our youngest students, ensure that all students have access to essential, non-academic support services at school, and make sure that higher education is affordable for all.

Improving Access to Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education lays the groundwork for students' long-term academic success. Research has demonstrated that the size of a child's vocabulary, use of words, and familiarity with numbers when entering kindergarten are all strong indicators of future academic success. Unfortunately, nearly 60 percent of Ohio's children do not begin kindergarten ready to learn.

Creating Ready Schools

To ensure all schools are prepared to meet the needs of all their students, Sen. Brown introduced the *Ready Schools Act* (S.1439). This legislation – which is based off of work championed by SPARK Ohio – would enable Title I eligible schools to complete a ready schools review as part of their Title I planning process. Instead of expecting students to show up to elementary school with the necessary skills to succeed, this legislation would ask schools to take steps to ensure that the school is equally ready to receive students. A “ready” elementary school has school principals and educators who understand and use developmentally appropriate curricula, assessments, and teaching practices; involves and engages families; and works cooperatively with early childhood programs to create a positive transition into the early grades of school. By doing so, teachers and faculty can be better prepared to meet the diverse needs of students and ensure that gains made in early childhood education are not lost during the transition to kindergarten.

Helping Secure Ohio's Early Learning Challenge Grant

Recognizing the role that federal resources can play in helping Ohio schools better serve their students, Sen. Brown signed onto a letter from the Ohio delegation to Education Secretary Arne Duncan in support of Ohio's application for the *Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund (RTTT-ELC)*. Ohio was awarded \$70 million through this competitive grant to improve the quality of early childhood education and strengthen state standards for children most in need.

Strengthening the Delivery of Elementary and Secondary Education



Over the past year, the Senate began the process of reauthorizing the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*. While the legislation passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, it did not make it to the Senate floor for further debate. In anticipation of this debate, Sen. Brown introduced legislation intended to improve ESEA by increasing both students' ability to succeed in school and districts' ability to measure student success.

Providing Important Wrap-Around Services to Students

For many students, barriers to educational success can occur before they enter the classroom. From not having the proper nutrition or medical care to dealing with abuse or violence at home, these barriers can keep a child from reaching their full academic potential. In March, Sen. Brown introduced the *Developing Innovative Partnerships and Learning Opportunities that Motivate Achievement (DIPLOMA) Act* to address these challenges. *The DIPLOMA Act* would establish a competitive grant program for schools that collaborate with outside organizations, businesses, higher education institutions, and parents in order to develop strategies to ensure that all students have the support needed to succeed academically. These efforts have been extremely effective in Cincinnati where the STRIVE partnership has led to increased student success at the Cincinnati Public Schools. Components of the *DIPLOMA Act* were included in the HELP Committee draft of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which passed out of committee.

In December, Sen. Brown wrote a letter to Secretary Duncan regarding the growing numbers of homeless youth. According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, 1.6 million children, including 32,953 Ohio youth, spent some point in the past year living in shelters, cars, abandoned buildings, or parks. Sen. Brown asked Secretary Duncan what the Department of Education is doing to support homeless students and how Congress can help ensure these students have the support necessary to ensure success in the classroom. He is committed to working closely with the Secretary to address the needs of this vulnerable population.

Helping School Districts Assess Student Performance

To analyze student achievement, State Educational Agencies and local districts depend on data to best gauge student achievement and growth. For this reason, Sen. Brown introduced the *Measuring and Evaluating Trends for Reliability, Integrity, and Continued Success (METRICS) Act*. This legislation would establish a competitive grant program for State Education Agencies and Local Education Agencies to help them obtain the most up-to-date and relevant data. Providing timely, valid, and relevant data will help assess student performance – measuring gains and identifying students who are in need of additional support.

Investing in Safe, Healthy Learning Environments



The average U.S. public school building is 40 years old, and many are much older. Conservative estimates suggest that needed school maintenance and repair nationwide totals at least \$270 billion. Yet, school districts across the country have been delaying such school improvements for years, even as student enrollment levels continue to rise. The declining state of our nation's school buildings is a problem that

has been exacerbated during the Great Recession as state and local governments have been

forced to cut repair budgets and lay off employees. Investing in school facility improvements can create jobs, strengthen the economy, and lower utility costs for school districts while boosting teacher and student morale and performance.

Sen. Brown introduced the *Fix America's Schools Today (FAST) Act* (S.1597), which would immediately put people back to work by investing \$25 billion to address deferred maintenance and repair in our nation's K-12 schools. An additional \$5 billion would be invested in renovating and modernizing facilities at our community colleges - the first line in providing a pathway to higher education for millions of Americans. Such a national project would create jobs, improve the health and safety of our schools, and help ensure that all students can attend school in world-class schools.

Making College More Affordable

Hosting the Fourth Annual Ohio College Presidents Conference

In March, Sen. Brown hosted the fourth annual Ohio College Presidents Conference. This bipartisan event brings the presidents of Ohio's 2-year, 4-year, public, and private institutions of higher education to Washington D.C. for a chance to meet, engage with one another, and hear from leaders within the field including keynote speakers Mark Milliron of the Gates Foundation and James Kvaal of the Department of Education. The conference also included opportunity for discussions about economic development and the role of universities as anchor institutions.



Helping Make Student Loan Repayments More Manageable

In March 2010, Sen. Brown worked to secure the passage of the landmark *Health and Education Reconciliation Act*. This legislation moved all new federal student loans to the direct loan program and ended the practice of subsidizing private lenders to make federal student loans – saving taxpayers \$61 billion over the next 10 years. These savings will be directed to increasing the Pell grant and supporting outreach and student success programs. One consequence of the transition is that some students still have both Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) and Direct Loans.

In May, Sen. Brown introduced the *Student Loan Simplification and Opportunity Act* (S.1068) which would allow students with FFEL loans and Direct Loans to convert their FFEL loans to the Direct Loan program. By ending the costly subsidies to private lenders, it is estimated that this legislation would save taxpayers an estimated \$1.8 billion dollars – money that will then be used to support the Pell grant program. In October, the President announced an executive order that would implement the provisions included in this legislation.

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Energy and Environment

Ohio's Clean Energy Economy

Sen. Brown has led the fight for our nation's energy policy to focus on decreasing American dependence on foreign oil, increasing energy efficiency, and creating good-paying manufacturing jobs in Ohio. He has long recognized that a smart energy policy is also a smart jobs policy that can help to make Ohio a leader not only in traditional fuel sources, including natural gas, but also clean energy technology like wind, solar, and biomass.

Promoting Clean Energy Manufacturing

While Ohio is a national leader in clean energy manufacturing, about 70 percent of the components of clean energy systems are built outside of the United States. Sen. Brown believes that we must not trade our dependence on foreign oil for a dependence on foreign-manufactured clean energy sources. As clean energy becomes one of the world's largest industries, manufacturing provides a significant opportunity for the U.S. to restore its industrial base and create good-paying American jobs.

That's why Sen. Brown has advocated for the expansion of tax credits for manufacturers who are seeking to create new products by creating equipment used for clean energy production in the U.S. These successful tax credits, known as the 48C Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits, provide critical financing for companies. Sen. Brown introduced the *Security in Energy and Manufacturing Act of 2011* (SEAM Act) to expand the 48C credit.

Protecting Ohio's Solar Industry from Unfair Trade

Sen. Brown has also supported Ohio's solar industry by urging the Obama Administration to defend solar companies and workers from China's massive subsidies to its solar exporters. Imports of Chinese solar panels increased 1,593 percent between 2006 and 2010. Without aggressive trade enforcement by the Department of Commerce, Ohio solar producers will be forced to continue to compete on an unlevel playing field against Chinese manufacturers.

In October, Sen. Brown held a roundtable discussion at the University of Toledo Clean Energy Incubator with stakeholders in Northwest Ohio's solar industry to discuss keeping the industry competitive. Earlier in the year, Sen. Brown toured First Solar's solar module production facility in Perrysburg with U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Nicole Lamb-Hale and members of the President's Manufacturing Council.



Supporting Offshore Wind Energy in Lake Erie

Ohio is also home to several wind projects and Lake Erie has the potential to house the United States' first freshwater offshore wind project. Wind energy not only generates clean, renewable energy but also creates jobs. Offshore wind energy has the potential to bring thousands of new manufacturing jobs to Ohio and clean energy to millions of homes near Lake Erie.

Sen. Brown has used his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to ensure that the Department of Energy's water-based wind programs consider wind generation on the Great Lakes and not simply ocean-based projects. In 2011, Sen. Brown was also an original cosponsor of a bipartisan investment tax credit for offshore wind development.

In September, Sen. Brown announced that Case Western Reserve University, Freshwater Wind, and Nautica Windpower were awarded new federal resources to research advanced wind turbine systems that are expected to help spur new technological innovations, reduce costs, and improve efficiency in creating new offshore wind energy systems.

Sen. Brown continues to work closely with wind experts, developers, and universities in northern Ohio to help coordinate offshore wind research and development and to help implement efforts to build the first freshwater wind farm in Lake Erie.

Creating Natural Gas Jobs in Ohio

Sen. Brown believes that natural gas deposits in the Marcellus and Utica shale have the potential to create jobs in Eastern Ohio, boost Ohio's steel and chemical industry, and provide a cleaner burning fuel source. He believes that new jobs in this industry should be going to Ohioans, and not workers brought in from out-of-state and that drilling companies should be using materials and supplies made and constructed by Ohio manufacturers. That is why in the fall of 2011, Sen. Brown held a field hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that included Chesapeake Energy—a major natural gas developer. Sen. Brown encouraged Chesapeake to hold a hiring fair for military veterans, and the company agreed to do so in 2012.

Sen. Brown is also working to ensure that property owners leasing their land are getting a fair deal from oil and gas companies, that our air and water is protected, and that the industry is following best practices that protect the environment for current and future generations. Sen. Brown believes that empowering local communities to make decisions on this critical issue is important and has expressed his concern about injection wells for disposal of wastewater from the hydrofracking process that has been linked to earthquakes in the Mahoning Valley.

Addressing High Gas Prices

Sen. Brown is working to address high gas prices at the pump. In January, Sen. Brown outlined the need to crack down on oil speculation, which may be partly responsible for driving up prices at the pump. Oil speculation occurs when prices are driven by investor activity, rather than traditional market forces. Several indicators have shown that gas prices are rising in part due to excessive speculation by hedge funds and index funds in the financial markets, as has been the case in past spikes in gas prices. In a letter sent to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in January, Sen. Brown urged the agency to use its full authority to protect consumers and small businesses from artificially inflated gas prices.



In March, Sen. Brown led a group of senators to press regulators for an immediate crackdown on speculation after new data showed oil trades by speculators jumping 35 percent after a period of civil unrest that began in late January in North Africa and then the Middle East. During that same period, U.S. gas prices soared by almost 40 percent. In an effort to rein in the speculators who were drastically inflating oil prices, the lawmakers sent a letter to Gary Gensler, chairman of the CFTC, asking him to use a new law that gives regulators the authority to combat speculation in so-called futures markets.

Additionally, Sen. Brown called on U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in February to push Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase production levels. With political unrest in the Middle East and North Africa, Sen. Brown asked Secretary Clinton to urge OPEC to increase production to levels that will ensure our continue economic recovery. He also cosponsored the *No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2011 (NOPEC)*. This legislation would make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.

Protecting Lake Erie

Sen. Brown believes that Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable resources and is dedicated to protecting it. He is an original cosponsor of a number of bills that would improve water quality, promote economic development, and stop the spread of invasive species that harm the Great Lakes.

Improving Water Quality and Reducing Algal Blooms in Lake Erie

A clean and healthy Lake Erie benefits all Ohioans. Recent studies have shown that increased investment in the Great Lakes would have a benefit of more than \$50 billion on the economies of the eight Great Lakes states. However, the Western Lake Erie Basin has been experiencing growing algal blooms that pose a threat to Ohio's economy and Ohioans' ability to enjoy the lake. That is why Sen. Brown wrote to USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service Chief Dave White inviting him to visit the Lake and see firsthand the challenges facing this critical watershed.



In December, Chief White met with critical stakeholders in the Western Lake Erie Basin on monitoring the watershed, solutions to the algal bloom, wetlands preservation, as well as nutrient management.

Stopping the Possible Invasion of Asian Carp

Sen. Brown is also concerned with the possible spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. Asian carp is an invasive species that would threaten the ecosystem of Lake Erie. Researchers have found that in many sections of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, Asian carp are the only species present. More than 185 species of invasive fish, mussels, and plants from Asia and Eastern Europe are already in the Great Lakes system, choking out native species.

Financial Services: Banking, Tax Policy, Deficit Reduction

Banking

As a member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Sen. Brown has consistently promoted a practical, Midwestern vision for the proper role of the financial sector in the broader economy. Such a vision utilizes finance as a tool for promoting manufacturing, small businesses, and home ownership.

Financial services industry output increased from 15 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 1980 to 21 percent of GDP in 2010. During that same period, manufacturing has declined from 20.8 percent to 11.7 percent of GDP. Sen. Brown has worked to ensure that the financial sector serves the rest of the economy and to defend the community banks and credit unions that provide access to critical capital for Main Street.

Reducing Risk Posed by “Too Big to Fail” Megabanks

As chair of the Senate Banking Committee Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, Sen. Brown held hearings on excessive financial sector borrowing, including the subsidies that “too big to fail” banks receive from the government, the threats that trillion-dollar megabanks pose to our economy, and the unfair advantage they have over Ohio’s regional and community financial institutions. He also wrote several letters to the Federal Reserve urging it to address the excessive amount of debt that banks use to fund themselves, to fully disclose its findings to the public to prevent future bailouts, and to prevent banks from gambling with taxpayer support.

Ending Excessive Wall Street Speculation

In January, Sen. Brown sent a letter urging the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to complete its “position limits” rules to curtail energy speculation that drives up gas prices for consumers. In March, Sen. Brown joined a letter with 12 other senators opposing oil speculation in the futures markets.

Standing Up for Ohio Consumers

Sen. Brown believes that the success of the middle class relies, in part, on protecting consumers from the financial tricks and traps hidden in mortgage and credit card agreements and checking accounts.

In July, former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray was nominated to serve as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s first director. Sen. Brown had the honor of introducing Mr. Cordray at his nomination



hearing in September and continued to push for his confirmation throughout the year.



In October, Sen. Brown's Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection held a hearing on "Consumer Protection and Middle Class Wealth Building in an Age of Growing Household Debt." Doug Fecher, CEO of Wright-Patterson Credit Union in Dayton, shared his experiences helping his members take advantage of low-cost financial products, including mortgages and credit cards.

Supporting Ohio's Community Banks and Credit Unions

Sen. Brown continues to believe that Ohio's credit unions are an essential part of the state's economy. In April, Sen. Brown held a Subcommittee hearing on "The State of Community Banking." He heard testimony from Paul Reed, the CEO of Farmers Bank in Pomeroy, and the Chairman of the Ohio Bankers League. He is also a cosponsor of the *Small Business Lending Enhancement Act*, which would lift the arbitrary cap on credit union business lending. Allowing credit unions to unleash up to \$274 million in new funding for private sector projects, hiring, and expansion in Ohio could create as many as 2,900 new jobs, all at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Tax Policy

Easing the Tax Burden for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

Sen. Brown co-sponsored legislation, introduced by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), to repeal the 1099 reporting requirement provided in the health care law. While Sen. Brown supports improving information reporting and closing the tax gap, he does not believe that we should do so in a way that overly burdens small businesses. This provision was ultimately repealed, with Sen. Brown's support.

Standing Up for Innocent Spouses

In April, Sen. Brown joined Sen. Baucus and Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) in calling on the IRS to conduct a review of the regulations limiting the time innocent spouses have to file for equitable relief from joint tax liability. Innocent spouse provisions excuse a spouse from liability for unpaid taxes on a joint return if he or she did not know or have reason to know of the unpaid taxes when the return was signed. The senators argued that providing only two years to file for this relief runs counter to the spirit of equitable relief, which was designed to act as a "safety-valve" for innocent spouses and takes into account all the facts and circumstances of each case. In July, the IRS announced that it was eliminating the two-year time limit for innocent spouses to file for equitable relief from joint tax liability.

Reducing the Deficit

Sen. Brown believes it is critical that we get our fiscal house in order. He has a history of fighting to reign in unnecessary spending and has been a long-time supporter of a responsible balanced budget. Sen. Brown is working to reduce the deficit while promoting job creation and economic growth.

Supporting a Balanced Budget

As working Ohio families are making their own difficult decisions on how to reduce their personal budgets, Sen. Brown believes that the federal government should live within its means in a manner that does not undermine economic growth.

While serving as a member of the House of Representatives, Sen. Brown co-sponsored three balanced budget amendments. He also voted for two balanced budget amendments, one of which passed out of the House of Representatives, but was ultimately not adopted by the Senate.

Sen. Brown does not believe that we should balance the budget deficit on the backs of hard-working, middle class Ohioans, especially when we continue to provide additional tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. That is why Sen. Brown supported a responsible balanced budget amendment that would end extra tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires unless there is budget surplus. It would also create a Social Security "lockbox" to keep Congress from raiding the Social Security trust fund to hide the true size of our annual deficits.

Because Sen. Brown does not believe that a balanced budget amendment should protect tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans or undermine social security, he opposed an irresponsible 2011 balanced budget amendment that would enshrine tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires into the U.S. Constitution, recklessly restrict the size of the government in a manner that would threaten our national defense and homeland security, and undermine our basic safety nets of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Cutting spending

A strong supporter of fiscal responsibility, Sen. Brown has supported and proposed a number of cost saving measures that would reduce the deficit.



In 2011, Sen. Brown proposed bipartisan legislation, *the Agricultural Risk and Revenue Management (ARRM) program* that would streamline the farm safety net while saving taxpayers \$20 billion over 10 years. Sen. Brown introduced this proposal with Sens. Thune (R-SD), Durbin (D-IL), and Lugar (R-IN). The legislation builds upon the *Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program*, legislation that Sen. Brown included in the 2008 Farm Bill. ARRM would

consolidate the farm safety net by providing critical support for farmers while encouraging greater reliance on private, market-based insurance to manage individual farm losses.

Additionally, Sen. Brown proposed eliminating waste in the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit, which the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) believes will cost taxpayers \$1.1 trillion over the next 10 years, adding more to the deficit than the combined costs of the automotive rescue, economic stimulus, and health care reform law combined. Medicare spending in Part D – the prescription drug program – is unsustainable. That is why Sen. Brown introduced the *Medicare Drugs Savings Act* that would require prescription drug manufacturers to pay rebates to Medicare for brand name and generic outpatient drugs utilized by low-income beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part D.

Sen. Brown is also working to increase access to generic biologic drugs, the most expensive subset of drugs on the market. Doing so would save taxpayers \$3.5 billion over the next 10 years. He has also long championed efforts to allow consumers to buy cheaper medicines re-imported from Canada and other similar countries. Allowing the re-importation of prescription drugs would save taxpayers \$19.4 billion over 10 years.

Sen. Brown believes that it is inexcusable for Wall Street hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than a sheet metal worker in Parma or a school teacher in Cleveland. Ending special tax breaks for Wall Street hedge funds would raise \$23 billion over 10 years. Sen. Brown also proposed closing tax loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas, which would save \$19.5 billion over 10 years.

In 2011, Sen. Brown also voted to repeal special tax breaks for the five largest and most profitable Big Oil companies. He believes that at a time of record gas prices, Big Oil companies do not need special tax breaks that could cost taxpayers \$20 billion over 10 years. Sen. Brown also proposed ending a special corporate tax loophole that allows corporations to deduct stock option expenses greater than the expenses shown on their books. This proposal would cut the budget deficit by \$25 billion over 10 years.



Finally, Sen. Brown believes that it is unconscionable for members of Congress to raise the social security retirement age. That is why he proposed the bipartisan *Congressional Retirement Age Act* that would prevent Members of Congress from collecting their pensions until they are eligible for Social Security. This legislation, endorsed by the National Taxpayers Union, would save about \$15 billion over 10 years while demanding Members of Congress make the same sacrifices many are asking of working Americans.

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Health Care

Sen. Brown has been working to improve access to high-quality, affordable health care for all Ohioans – and all Americans – from children to seniors to working families.

Promoting Children’s Health

A healthy and productive adulthood begins with a healthy childhood. That is why Sen. Brown has worked to increase the number of pediatric physicians, encourage the development of treatments and cures for rare pediatric diseases, and promote health insurance coverage for children.

Ensuring a Robust Pediatric Workforce

The Children’s Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program provides freestanding children’s hospitals, including seven in Ohio, with resources to help them sustain, improve, and expand their teaching and training opportunities. CHGME hospitals train 40 percent of the country’s general pediatricians and 43 percent of pediatric specialists. While serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Sen. Brown authored the *Children’s Hospitals Education and Research Act of 1998*, which first proposed the CHGME program. Over the last decade, Sen. Brown has ensured the continuation of the program through reauthorization legislation and appropriations.



Treating Pediatric Diseases and Disorders

In October, Sen. Brown was the recipient of the inaugural Society for Pediatric Research Public Service Award. The award honored his efforts to advance children’s health, including encouraging the research community to find new cures for childhood diseases.

Sen. Brown has been a consistent advocate for leveraging federal resources to fund pediatric research, including expanded resources for Down syndrome and autism spectrum disorders, as well as treatments for rare and neglected pediatric diseases. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that there are more than 6,000 rare diseases, but these are often overlooked by pharmaceutical companies because they cannot guarantee the same return on investment as they receive from medicines treating more common diseases. To help spur private-sector innovation, Sen. Brown reintroduced the *Creating Hope Act of 2011*, which increases incentives for the development of treatments for disabling, deadly, and rare pediatric diseases.

He also introduced the *Trisomy 21 Research Resource Act* and the *Trisomy 21 Research Centers of Excellence Act*, which would expand and intensify NIH efforts with respect to Down syndrome research, as well as establish the Down Syndrome Coordinating Committee to coordinate federal health work relating to Down syndrome.

In December, Sen. Brown convened a meeting of leading autism researchers, including Dr. Thomas Insel, the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Chairman of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, to discuss research aimed at better understanding the causes of autism. Approximately 1 in 110 children have Autism, and many answers about the disorder still evade the medical community. Sen. Brown continues to support research efforts, including cosponsoring the *Combating Autism Reauthorization Act (CARA)* that became law in September 2011. The CARA extends the federal government's commitment to opportunities that support the tremendous work of autism researchers.

Promoting a Healthy Start in Life

Each year in the United States more than half a million babies are born prematurely increasing their risk for medical conditions and learning and behavioral problems. Recognizing that premature births adversely affect the health of our nation's children, Sen. Brown fought to ensure that women at risk of preterm birth have access to affordable preventive treatments.

Ensuring Affordable Treatments to Prevent Pre-Term Births



One such treatment is progesterone, or 17P, an affordable drug prepared by compounding pharmacists that has been successful in reducing preterm births in high-risk pregnancies. When a pharmaceutical company received exclusive rights to manufacture the drug, branded as Makena, and increased the price from \$20 to \$1,500 a dose, Sen. Brown demanded the company reconsider its pricing. He successfully urged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to permit consumers to purchase the original, significantly cheaper version of the drug. His efforts resulted in the FDA's announcement that compounding pharmacies would still be able to offer women the more affordable version of the drug.

Assisting New Mothers

Many new mothers need assistance during their pregnancies or once they leave the hospital with their newborn. To help improve maternal and child health and simultaneously reduce health costs, hospitals and communities have launched home health visiting projects. Based on an Ohio program that was able to reduce the number of preterm babies born in the area by half, Sen. Brown supported the creation of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Ohio has already received more than \$4 million to implement MIECHVs throughout the state.

Preventing Birth Defects and Infant Death

Birth defects are a leading cause of infant mortality, responsible for more than 20 percent of all infant deaths in the United States. Additionally, babies born with a birth defect are more likely to develop a serious illness or have a long-term disability. Fortunately, some birth defects can be prevented. Sen. Brown is an original cosponsor of the *Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act*, which would help spread awareness about how to best prevent birth defects.

Every year, more than 25,000 stillbirths occur in the United States. While many of these deaths are the result of birth defects, the cause of nearly half are unknown. Additionally, more than 4,600 infant deaths are attributed to Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) each year. To allow the medical community to better understand these tragic deaths and prevent future occurrences, Sen. Brown became a cosponsor of the *Stillbirth and SUID Prevention, Education, and Awareness Act*. The *Stillbirth and SUID Act* would assist public health agencies in compiling and organizing data related to stillbirths and sudden unexpected infant deaths. By conducting better research, medical professionals may be able to help prevent these tragic deaths from occurring, increase public awareness of the risk factors related to stillbirths, and help improve the overall health of expecting mothers and children.

Reducing Childhood Obesity

Obesity rates have more than tripled in the last three decades and in Ohio more than 30 percent of children and adolescents are overweight or obese. Our children living with obesity experience lifelong health problems, including type II diabetes, heart disease, and bone and joint ailments. That is why Sen. Brown supports various public and private partnerships in Ohio and across the country to fight childhood obesity, as well as federal legislation that will establish national nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools so that vending machine food and individual snack foods in the cafeteria are healthy and nutritious.

Fighting Prescription Drug Abuse

Rampant prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the nation and countless Ohio communities have been affected. In 2008, Oxycodone and other prescription drugs caused more overdoses in Ohio than heroin and cocaine combined. In response to these concerns, Sen. Brown convened a first-of-its-kind roundtable in southern Ohio with federal and local law enforcement, community activists, elected officials, and members of the medical community. As a result of that meeting, in May 2011 Sen. Brown introduced the *Stop Trafficking of Pills Act*, which would establish nationwide Medicaid and Medicare “lock-in” programs to crack down on the use of these programs to obtain and illegally resell prescription drugs. The Act would bar high-risk prescription drug users from receiving Medicaid or Medicare benefits by visiting multiple doctors and pharmacies for pain medications, instead limiting them to one physician and one pharmacy.



Sen. Brown also wrote a letter to Florida’s Governor Rick Scott urging him to reinstate prescription drug monitoring funding in his state’s budget. An illegal drug pipeline originating in Florida helps supply Ohio residents with prescription drugs and such activity would only increase without proper monitoring by Florida’s state government. Thanks to the efforts of Sen. Brown and others, Governor Scott reversed his decision and reinstated prescription drug monitoring funding in the budget.

New Health Care Benefits

Sen. Brown has long advocated for accessible, affordable, and high-quality health care for all. That is why he voted for the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (PPACA), which will expand health care coverage to the nearly 50 million Americans who are currently uninsured while reducing health care costs for small businesses and working families that already have coverage.

Offering New Coverage Options

Since its passage, PPACA has resulted in a number of beneficial changes to the American health care system, such as allowing children to remain on their parents' health insurance through age 26. Approximately 2.5 million young adults have benefited from this provision. Children and their families have also benefited from a provision that prohibits health insurance plans from excluding, limiting, or denying coverage to children under age 19 due to a pre-existing decision. These protections will be extended to all Americans in 2014.

Putting Consumers in Control

The health reform law is also working to end insurance company abuses. Starting in 2012, consumers will have the right to know why a claim has been denied or why their insurance company terminated their policy. Consumers will also have the right to appeal those decisions – first through the insurance company and then through an independent, third-party review. Insurance companies will no longer be permitted to unjustifiably raise premiums nor will they be able to spend large portions of consumers' premiums on executive bonuses, marketing, advertising, and overhead.



The health reform law requires that health insurance plans sold to individuals and groups spend 80 percent of premiums on actual medical care – 85 percent for large group plans. Insurers who do not meet this requirement must provide rebates to their customers.

PPACA will also enable consumers to more easily understand and determine the best health insurance options for themselves and their families. In 2012, 180 million consumers with private health insurance will have access to clear, consistent, and comparable information about plan benefits and coverage. This information will include a glossary of terms and “coverage examples” that illustrate what proportion of expenses a health insurance policy or plan would cover for three common scenarios: having a baby, treating breast cancer, and managing diabetes.

Ensuring Health Care Coverage For Ohioans with Pre-Existing Conditions

For individuals who have been rejected from insurance plans due to a pre-existing condition, the health reform law created a temporary, high-risk pool to help provide affordable health insurance coverage to those who were previously uninsured. U.S. citizens with a pre-existing condition who have gone without health insurance for at least six months are eligible for the program. Sen. Brown has heard from a number of constituents who have benefitted from the high-risk pools and could have become gravely ill or forced into poverty without the coverage available to them through this program.

Ensuring Access to Safe, Affordable Pharmaceuticals

Protecting Against Drug Shortages and Ensuring Accessibility

Drug shortages are not a new problem, but the increasing prevalence of drug shortages is alarming. Many experts believe the United States is experiencing the worst drug shortage in 30 years. More than 160 drug shortages were reported in 2009 and that number jumped to a record high of 211 in 2010. Delays in receiving medications affect all aspects of the medical sector from emergency departments, to surgical wards, to oncology practices, to clinical trials.

To help protect Ohioans from life-threatening drug shortages, Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act*, which would require prescription drug manufacturers to alert the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to any incident that would likely result in a drug shortage. This early warning would allow the FDA to take the necessary steps to address and potentially prevent a shortage. The FDA would also be required to provide updates to the public about potential shortages – allowing doctors, pharmacists, and patients to work together to avoid an interruption in care.

Making Pharmaceutical Drugs Safe

In 2007, 149 Americans, including at least three people from the Toledo area, died after taking tainted Heparin, a widely-used blood thinner. It was later revealed that the contaminant was derived from pig intestines, produced in largely-unregulated Chinese workshops. Two years ago, the United States experienced a record 1,742 drug recalls, a 400 percent increase from the year prior, mainly due to manufacturing quality issues.

In the wake of an FDA report which revealed that more than 80 percent of the active ingredients for drugs sold in the United States are made abroad, Sen. Brown called on the FDA to tighten oversight on pharmaceutical companies that import active ingredients for drugs. The report follows previous calls Sen. Brown made in 2008 for the FDA to study pharmaceutical outsourcing after an FDA official acknowledged that American drug companies outsource operations to take advantage of weak drug safety standards abroad. He previously introduced legislation to mandate a country-of-origin labeling requirement for pharmaceuticals.



To address the serious public health problems in this alarming report, Sen. Brown cosponsored the *Drug Safety and Accountability Act*. This legislation would strengthen manufacturing quality standards by requiring pharmaceutical companies to account for their entire supply chain. It would also give the FDA more tools to monitor overseas drug production through improved and streamlined information tracking systems, as well as the authority to order mandatory pharmaceutical recalls.

Keeping Pharmaceutical Drugs Affordable

In addition to ensuring access to safe medications, Sen. Brown is also working to provide all Americans with affordable prescription drugs. He is a cosponsor of the bipartisan *Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2011*, which would allow the United States to import affordable, safe prescription drugs from countries like Australia and Canada.

Seniors are taking bus trips from states like Ohio into Canada and Americans across the nation are using the internet to import medicines from locations throughout the world. Sen. Brown believes it makes sense to establish procedures that maintain a central role for U.S. pharmacies and promote importation only from countries with rigorous drug safety standards. This bill would result in lower drug prices by increasing competition in the pharmaceutical marketplace.



Sen. Brown is also fighting to put an end to “pay for delay” agreements where brand-name companies pay generic drug manufacturers to delay entry of the cheaper generic drugs onto the market. That is why he cosponsored two pieces of legislation, the *Fair and Immediate Release of Generic Drugs Act (FAIR GENERxICS) of 2011* and the *Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act*. These bills are aimed at ending these arrangements, resulting in savings for American consumers of approximately \$2.7 billion over the next 10 years.

Currently, the government receives a discount on drugs purchased for Medicaid beneficiaries but not for Medicare beneficiaries. Sen. Brown supports the *Medicare Drug Savings Act of 2011*, legislation that would extend this discount to drugs purchased for beneficiaries who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, saving taxpayers approximately \$112 billion over 10 years.

Preserving Medicaid

The Medicaid program is an essential part of Ohio’s health care system. Medicaid provides health coverage for low-income Americans – primarily children, disabled individuals, poor seniors, and pregnant women. Sixty-eight million Americans currently receive health care through Medicaid. Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring Medicaid remains strong for our country’s most vulnerable populations.

Sen. Brown joined 36 of his Senate colleagues to write a letter opposing a House of Representatives-passed bill that would turn Medicaid into a block grant. Block grants would have shifted costs to the states, forced a reduction of services, and ended federal oversight on the allocation of Medicaid resources. Ohioans who depend on Medicaid, approximately 75 percent of whom are children and their parents, would experience a decreased quality of care under a block grant system. Senior citizens and disabled individuals would also experience hardship due to a reduction in long-term care services.

Sen. Brown believes there are ways to reduce Medicaid spending without simply slashing benefits or cost-shifting to seniors or the states, which is why he wrote to President Obama advocating for swifter implementation of health care delivery system reforms. This approach

would not only reduce costs for seniors, Medicare, Medicaid, and the federal government, but would also reduce costs for all Americans.

Promoting Women’s Health

Sen. Brown is a leading advocate for women’s health – from ending gender discrimination in the health insurance market to promoting preventive care.

Ending Gender Discrimination in Health Insurance



Prior to the passage of health reform law, it was legal in nine states for insurance companies to deny coverage to women who were victims of domestic violence because it was considered a pre-existing condition. Pregnancy could also be considered a pre-existing condition, thus excluding maternity coverage for the 14 million women who purchase their coverage through the individual insurance market. And, in most states, women are charged higher premiums, sometimes 150 percent more than men.

Sen. Brown supported the Women’s Health Amendment, included in the health reform law, requiring health plans to cover women’s comprehensive preventive care at no extra cost to them.

Standing Up for Women’s Preventive Health

Sen. Brown has worked to protect resources for preventive health care for women, including the Title X Family Planning program that provides comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services to those in need. Title X currently serves nearly five million women and men at more than 4,500 health centers each year.

For many, these health centers serve as their only access to primary health care. In 2009, Ohio’s 35 Planned Parenthood centers provided health care services to nearly 98,000 Ohioans including more than 32,000 cervical cancer screenings, nearly 33,000 breast exams, and approximately 60,000 tests for a disease that is one of the leading causes of preventable infertility.

Protecting Our Children from Tobacco

Tobacco companies lose 400,000 customers each year due to tobacco-related deaths and illnesses and they seek to replace them by introducing tobacco products marketed at children. Sen. Brown believes it is critical to prevent today’s youth from becoming tomorrow’s tobacco consumers. That is why he championed the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*, which requires that every pack of cigarettes sold in the U.S. display graphic health warnings that showcase the harmful effect cigarettes can have on smokers and their loved ones.

Sen. Brown also led a group of senators in calling on the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products to prevent “tobacco candies” and flavored cigars from being marketed to children. Tobacco candies are addictive, dangerous, smokeless, dissolvable tobacco products with candy-like flavorings such as strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate. [Back to Table of Contents](#)

Housing

Sen. Brown has worked to stop the spread of foreclosures in communities across the nation. The middle class has been hit hard by mortgage problems due to economic challenges not seen in decades and the unscrupulous lending practices of some banks and mortgage brokers. The dramatic increase in foreclosures not only has disastrous consequences for homeowners, but for the communities and neighborhoods in which they live.

Fighting Ohio's Foreclosure Crisis

Sen. Brown has been pushing for aggressive action to confront the housing crisis in Ohio. He will continue fighting to protect the American dream that working families have worked so hard to achieve.

He has also spoken with scores of Ohioans about their experiences with the foreclosure crisis including homeowners, housing counselors, elected officials, non-profit foundations, and other leaders. He continues working to keep residents in their homes. Sen. Brown has also worked to help communities address increasing numbers of distressed properties and restore economic strength to areas affected by foreclosures and abandonment.



Stopping Foreclosure Fraud

In the wake of a settlement between 14 U.S. mortgage servicers and foreclosed homeowners, Sen. Brown introduced landmark legislation to prevent future servicer fraud and errors, improve foreclosure counseling and prevention, and reform oversight of mortgage-based investing. Sen. Brown introduced the *Foreclosure Fraud and Homeowner Abuse Prevention Act of 2011*, which would expand access to foreclosure prevention services while increasing protections for homeowners and investors in mortgage-backed securities. Companion legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Brad Miller (D-NC).

The *Foreclosure Fraud and Homeowner Abuse Prevention Act of 2011* is endorsed by the Alliance for a Just Society, Center for Responsible Lending, Community Organizations in Action, National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA), National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients), Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, and Columbus Housing Partnership.

Standing Up for Servicemembers and Veterans

The *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)* helps active servicemembers stay in their homes by protecting them from default judgments, evictions, mortgage foreclosures, and repossessions of property. Banks have admitted to violating the SCRA and, as a result, military personnel and their families have paid significantly more interest than permitted by law and, in some cases, have lost their homes to unlawful foreclosures. To address this issue, Sen. Brown wrote to the

Department of Justice and Holly Petraeus, the Assistant Director for the Office of Servicemember Affairs in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), urging the Justice Department and CFPB to provide greater protections for servicemembers.

On October 4, 2011, several publications reported on claims brought in Federal Court alleging that some of the nation's largest mortgage servicers packed illegal fees into home refinancing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Sen. Brown wrote to the VA and the Department of Justice inquiring about their investigation of this matter and their decision not to join the private lawsuit.

Preventing Housing Discrimination

Sen. Brown fought to preserve resources for local groups to prevent housing discrimination through the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP). Fair housing organizations and other non-profits that receive funding through FHIP assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination. FHIP organizations partner with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help people identify government agencies that handle complaints of housing discrimination.

In October, Sen. Brown added an amendment to the HUD appropriations bill to preserve FHIP funding. The amendment was supported by local fair housing organizations nationwide and 10 national civil rights groups including Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, NAACP, National Association of Neighborhoods, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, National Council of La Raza, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Action Fund, and Poverty & Race Research Action Council.

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NASA and Aerospace

Ohio is a state of innovators and inventors – engineers from Dayton made us airborne; astronauts from our small towns took us around the earth and to the moon; and entrepreneurs put our words into motion over a telephone line and our lives into motion on cars and trains. Just as it was in the 20th century, Ohio’s leadership in aerospace, science, and innovation is critical to our nation’s economic competitiveness and national security in the 21st century.

Boosting Aerospace Economic Development

Science Education and Extension

Not only is Ohio home to NASA’s Glenn Research Center, it also houses world class universities educating the next generation of scientists, engineers, and astronauts. To support academic development, Sen. Brown announced that The Ohio State University, as part of NASA and the National Space Grant Foundation’s eXploration Habitat (X-Hab) academic innovation challenge, was selected to design a habitat and science concept that could be used by future deep space explorers.

Additionally, Ohio’s private sector plays an important role in the advancing aerospace industry. As such, Sen. Brown hosted a roundtable in November with Dr. John Holdren, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the President’s Science Advisor at the Great Lakes Science Center. Leaders from the aerospace, manufacturing, and healthcare industries were invited to talk about their innovations and issues.

Building Ohio’s Aerospace Supply Chain

According to the Ohio Aerospace Institute, there are more than 1,200 companies that support more than 120,000 jobs in Ohio’s aerospace industry. Sen. Brown has been working to attract more aerospace investment in Ohio.

With an estimated \$4.3 billion in direct procurement in 2009, Ohio ranks first in Airbus spending in the United States and attracts even larger investments from Boeing. Since 1990, Airbus has invested more than \$115 billion in the United States, working with hundreds of suppliers and supporting more than 180,000 jobs. In 2010, Sen. Brown organized three procurement



conferences that connected more than 800 Ohio businesses and participants with opportunities to break into the Airbus supply chain. The summits were designed to identify new contract opportunities, educate Ohio aerospace suppliers about the procurement process, and enable Ohio companies to meet one-on-one with representatives from Airbus and its Tier 1 suppliers.

In 2011, Sen. Brown worked to facilitate discussions between Airbus and the National Composite Center in Dayton aimed at developing a research and development consortium of Ohio aerospace companies, incubators, and universities to develop next-generation aircraft.

Furthering the Mission of NASA Glenn

NASA Glenn has a strong heritage in spaceflight and is renowned for its advanced aeronautics research. Sen. Brown has been fighting to ensure that the critical skills of NASA Glenn's workforce are utilized by NASA as the agency serves its mission to develop innovative aeronautical technology.

Fully Investing in NASA Glenn and Plum Brook Station

NASA Glenn and Plum Brook Station possess the technical workforce and equipment essential for the development of cutting-edge aerospace technology. During a time of budgetary uncertainty, Sen. Brown worked to support, sustain, and expand the work conducted at Ohio's NASA facilities. In an effort to preserve NASA's technical capacity, Sen. Brown cosponsored an amendment to the *FAA Reauthorization Act* that passed by a vote of 96-1 in February. The amendment prevented the "transfer of civil aeronautics research and development – a key mission of NASA Glenn – from NASA to other existing departments or agencies of the federal government, to an academic consortia, or to a non-profit."

In December, Sen. Brown led members of the Ohio Delegation in writing to President Obama asking that he fully invest in NASA Glenn, including its Plum Brook Station facility in Sandusky.

Ensuring NASA Glenn's Continued Leadership on the Orion Space Vehicle

During an April hearing of the Senate Appropriations Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee, Sen. Brown won assurances from NASA Administrator Bolden that NASA Glenn would retain its role working on the Orion space vehicle. Sen. Brown also discussed the Plum Brook Station's valuable role in spacecraft testing and how it must be utilized to ensure the safety of our crews.

After NASA's May announcement that the Orion capsule concept would remain NASA's Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV), Sen. Brown led an Ohio Delegation letter to Administrator Bolden reminding him of his statements before the Senate Appropriations Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee that NASA Glenn would retain its role in developing and supporting Orion.

Maintaining Funding for the Space Technology Program

Understanding the importance of funding for the Space Technology Program, Sen. Brown joined with California Sens. Feinstein and Boxer in requesting Congress maintain funding for the program, as it funds much of the work at NASA Glenn. As a member of the Senate-House conference committee, Sen. Brown negotiated the funding for NASA's Fiscal Year 2012 budget in November ensuring NASA's Aeronautics account was fully funded at \$569.9 million and Space Technology was funded at \$575 million.

Recognizing Aerospace Achievements



Ohio is home to 24 astronauts, including John Glenn and Neil Armstrong. In September, Sen. Brown cosponsored a Concurrent Resolution to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society. In November, Sen. Brown attended a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony honoring astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and the Honorable John Glenn in the U.S. Capitol.

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National Defense and Veterans' Affairs

Sen. Brown believes that supporting our troops and their families is a responsibility we all share. This means ensuring that our troops receive the support and resources necessary to defend and maintain our country's security. From providing top-of-the-line body armor and readily-equipped vehicles, to ensuring fair pay for servicemembers and easing the transition to civilian life for returning service members, Sen. Brown continues to fight for all Ohioans who serve or have served in our Armed Forces, making sure these brave men and women receive the material, support, and benefits they have earned.

Fighting for Ohio Defense Installations and Defense Manufacturing Jobs

Supporting Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Wright-Patt) is the key economic engine for the Dayton region and the crown jewel of our nation's Air Force. Ensuring a strong, robust, and innovative base guarantees that Dayton's economy and the Air Force will remain strong. Its people, assets, and infrastructure are the keys to Wright-Patt's success. Further developing these resources will help maintain the base's continued ability to fulfill its mission.



Sen. Brown requested the continuation of the *Air Force Minority Leaders Program*, which provides funding and research opportunities to three Southwest Ohio universities: University of Dayton, Wilberforce University, and Central State University. Following Sen. Brown's request, the Air Force announced in May that it would keep the program running. The *Air Force Minority Leaders Program* matches small businesses with students and teachers from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and select research institutions to perform critical research used by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson.

The same month, following reports that Air Force leadership of the enterprise logistics program could be transferred from Wright-Patt to Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, Sen. Brown demanded Administration assurances that jobs would remain in Dayton. In a letter to Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, Sen. Brown requested a meeting with the Air Force and asked for an analysis detailing the reasoning for the proposed transfer.

In September, following news that the Air Force issued a stop work order to a Dayton Air Force contractor, Sen. Brown and Congressman Michael Turner (R-OH) urged Secretary Donley to maintain the Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS) program office, including the office's workforce and expertise, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

In response to news of the U.S. Air Force reorganization, Sen. Brown released the following statement in November: “The Air Force’s decision to locate two of its five lead centers at Wright-Patterson reflects what the base’s workforce and community supporters have long known: that Wright-Patterson has a world-class team that is poised to help the AF address the threats, challenges, and opportunities that our nation faces. Maintaining the Air Force Research Lab in Dayton is a sign of the high-quality workforce and top-notch research and development. The new Life Cycle Management Center will utilize the existing expertise that will solidify the Miami Valley’s position as a national leader in aerospace and defense.”

Fighting to Preserve the M1A2 Abrams Tank and Lima Tank Plant

The Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, or Lima Tank Plant, is the only place in the world that manufactures the Abrams tank: the heart of our nation’s mechanized cavalry. It is critical that the Lima Tank Plant and Northwest Ohio maintains its industrial base capacity and is able to produce the world’s best tank. Sen. Brown’s efforts helped to keep the plant open in 2011, allowing its world-class personnel to continue to serve its military customers.



Sen. Brown successfully fought back against the Department of Defense proposal to halt future funding for the Abrams tank. This plan would have likely led to the closure of the Lima Tank Plant as employees and capital assets would leave Lima for other places that rely upon their specialized, high-skilled talents. In advance of Senate Armed Service Committee consideration of the FY2012 Defense Authorization bill in June, Sen. Brown wrote to Committee Chairman Carl Levin urging him to reject any plan to end the Abrams tank modernization program. Through Sen. Brown’s efforts, the FY2012 Defense Authorization bill maintained funding for the Abrams tank, and authorized \$240 million to sustain the Abrams production line.

In September, Sen. Brown met with new U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, to urge him to not only preserve but also create jobs at the Lima Tank Plant. Sen. Brown told Secretary Panetta to maintain the modernization of the M1A2 Abrams tank and the production of a replacement vehicle for the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle at the Lima Tank Plant.

In October, Sen. Brown applauded the news that General Dynamics, which operates the Lima Tank Plant, was awarded a new Army contract to produce 177 additional double-V hull Stryker vehicles. This contract will sustain more than 200 jobs at the Lima facility. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Brown worked to secure the resources necessary to develop the new hull.

Maintaining a Mansfield ANG Base Mission

Not only is the Air Force’s C-27J aircraft program essential for our national security, domestic disaster relief, and other critical missions, the elimination of the C-27J could have a serious impact on the 179th Airlift Wing at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB) – undermining its ability to support active duty troops or respond to local emergencies.

After the Air Force proposed cutting the C-27J program in December 2010, Sen. Brown urged the Department of Defense (DOD) to consolidate the program by basing additional aircrafts in Mansfield. In January, Sen. Brown followed up on his proposal to DOD by asking the Secretary of Defense to locate additional C-27J aircraft at Mansfield.

To showcase growing support for his proposal, Sen. Brown joined seven other senators in a June letter to the Air Force urging the placement of additional C-27J aircraft at different bases, including the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield ANGB. Under the current proposal, the Mansfield ANGB, along with eight other bases around the country, will only house four operational C-27J aircrafts. During a September meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Sen. Brown continued to push for the placement of additional C-27J aircrafts for the 179th Airlift Wing based at Mansfield ANGB.



In October, Sen. Brown toured the new Armed Forces Reserve Center and Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) facility in Mansfield. Sen. Brown was joined by Colonel John C. Harris, the Assistant Adjutant General for the Army of the Ohio National Guard. They also viewed the 179th Airlift Wing's new C-27J aircraft at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base (ANGB). Sen. Brown will continue to push to bring preserve the C-27J aircraft at Mansfield ANGB or bring additional replacement missions to the base.

Empowering our National Guard to Fulfill Its Mission

Our Ohio National Guard plays a vital role in promoting the safety and security of our state and nation. Given the important role played by these citizen soldiers, Sen. Brown believes that the Guard must have the support it deserves. For this reason, he cosponsored the *National Guard Empowerment Act* that became law in December. The Act recognizes the increasing demand we place upon our Guard members by promoting the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a permanent member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This new law also reestablishes the position of the Vice Chief of the Guard Bureau as three-star level; enhances the Guard's representation at the senior levels of U.S. Northern Command; and helps clarify the disaster response command relationship among the Guard and the U.S. military commands

This legislation, which was endorsed by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Governors Association, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Adjutants General Association of the United States, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States was included as part of the FY2012 Defense Authorization bill.

Supporting our Men and Women in Uniform and Military Families

Fighting to Keep Service Members in Their Homes

The last thing our servicemembers should have to worry about is whether actions by unscrupulous lenders could cause them to lose their home while they are deployed overseas. In February, Sen. Brown wrote to President Obama urging him to prevent unlawful foreclosures and protect military families from eviction. Additionally, following reports of violations by financial institutions, Sen. Brown wrote to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Service Member Affairs Director Holly Petraeus asking them to enforce the *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)*. *SCRA* postpones or suspends certain civil obligations so that deployed service members can devote their full attention to duty and relieve stress on the family members of those deployed service members.

Ensuring Servicemembers Receive the Benefits They Deserve

In April, Sen. Brown announced that children and other unmarried dependents of servicemembers under the age of 26 can now enroll in *TRICARE's Young Adult (TYA)* health care plan. The same month, Sen. Brown cosponsored legislation to ensure that the pay and benefits for our nation's troops would be uninterrupted should the government shut down. *The Ensuring Pay for Our Military Act* would guarantee that members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components and supporting civilian and contractor personnel, continue to receive pay and allowances for active service performed during a government shutdown.

Recognizing the role played by our servicemembers, the FY2012 *National Defense Authorization Act of 2011* increased military basic pay by 1.6 percent.

Standing up for Ohio Veterans

Our veterans deserve the benefits they earned by serving our nation. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Sen. Brown is honored to serve Ohio's more than 900,000 veterans. For more than 145 years, Ohio has been a leader in veterans' services – from founding one of the nation's first chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Columbus, to establishing the nation's first Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Dayton, to our extraordinary system of county veterans' service offices.

Helping Veterans Find Jobs



Even though they served their country with honor and courage, too many veterans are returning home unable to find work. Sen. Brown believes that we as a grateful nation must do all we can to help our veterans find work. In May, Sen. Brown helped introduce the *Hiring Heroes Act of 2011*, which offers broad job skills training for all servicemembers returning home. This bill was included in the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, which passed the Senate and was signed into law by President Obama in November.

The VOW to Hire Heroes Act provides tax credits to businesses that hire veterans who have been looking for a job for more than four weeks. It also expands education and training opportunities for older veterans by providing 100,000 unemployed veterans of past eras and wars with up to one-year of additional Montgomery GI benefits. Furthermore, this law empowers servicemembers to begin the federal employment process prior to separation from the service, so that they may seamlessly transition from military to civilian employment.

Listening to Veterans at a Columbus Field Hearing on Veterans Employment

To further highlight the barriers faced by veterans seeking employment, Sen. Brown held a field hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in Columbus in December. The hearing examined barriers that veterans face to finding employment.



Two veterans testified at the hearing along with a veteran service officer and an employer – Chesapeake Energy. At the hearing, Chesapeake detailed its successful approach for hiring veterans and agreed to work with Sen. Brown to host a veterans' jobs fair for Ohio veterans. In addition, Joyce Cange, the director of the Cleveland

Regional Office for the Veterans Benefits Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs; Sherrè Isaac Collier, the Services Division Chief of Manpower, Personnel, and Services Directorate Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command; and Robert Creel, the Ohio State Director for Veterans' Employment and Training Service at Department of Labor testified on government efforts to help veterans find employment.

Ensuring Access to Quality VA Facilities for Ohio Veterans

Protecting Veterans at the Dayton Dental Clinic

In February, the Administrative Investigation Board issued a report on the Dayton VAMC indicating that several employees may have known that a practitioner was using unhygienic practices for 18 years— exposing veterans to blood-borne pathogens because dental equipment was not sterilized. In response, Sen. Brown joined U.S. Sen. Rob Portman and Representative Turner in writing to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki to request increased oversight and a more expansive investigation. In the letter, they asked Secretary Shinseki to investigate the lack of oversight that allegedly allowed a practitioner at the Dayton VA Medical Center's dental clinic to violate medical standards of practice over a period of 18 years.

Sen. Brown also immediately called for a Senate hearing on the Dayton VA Medical Center in response to an announcement that 535 veterans may have contracted Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV as a result of poor infection control practices.

Following more information regarding the investigative reports surrounding the events at the Dayton VA Medical Center Dental Clinic, Sen. Brown called for a thorough organizational review by the VA and concrete changes at the Dayton VA Medical Center. In April, following multiple requests by Sen. Brown to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA Inspector General released his report on mismanagement of the Dayton VA Medical Center at an official U.S. Senate field hearing in Dayton that Sen. Brown convened. Sen. Brown also invited Representative Turner to give a statement in advance of testimony from the witnesses.

That same month, following reports of two patients who tested positive for hepatitis B due to improper infection control practices at the Dayton VA Medical Center's dental clinic, Sen. Brown and Representative Turner urged U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric Shinseki to establish a dedicated task force to investigate issues surrounding misconduct at the Dayton VA Medical Center and make recommendations to prevent this situation from happening again in Dayton and across the nation.

Building Facilities That Support Veterans

Sen. Brown supports efforts to update and build new facilities to meet the needs of Ohio's veterans. The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center opened new facilities and renovated parts of the center. Sen. Brown participated in the dedication ceremony in May. Those facilities include a 122-bed homeless domiciliary, a 222-bed inpatient tower, and an administration building.



Sen. Brown also applauded the groundbreaking of the Valor Home, a new 30-bed facility that will provide temporary and transitional housing for Summit County-area veterans. Construction began in June. Sen. Brown has long been a supporter of the Valor Home project. In March of 2010, he wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in support of the Valor Home project.

Veterans in Mansfield will also benefit from improved access to VA health care services. Sen. Brown announced in September that the VA will build a new Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Mansfield. The 24,700 square foot facility—scheduled to open in March 2013—will house primary care and mental health units in one building, replacing the two existing facilities.

Additionally, Sen. Brown announced in November that veterans in the Dayton and Chillicothe regions will have access to more than 600 new housing units. The units will be built on VA land and provide housing for homeless veterans, senior veterans, disabled veterans, and their families.

Because untreated mental health issues often lead to homelessness, Sen. Brown is supportive of agencies and services that address gaps in mental health care for veterans. Sen. Brown announced in July that Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc. in Cleveland received federal resources to prevent homelessness among at-risk Cuyahoga County Veterans. The funds

were made available through the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program to prevent homelessness among at-risk Cuyahoga County Veterans.

Honoring the Legacy of Veterans

As a nation, we honor our veterans when we provide them with the care and benefits they deserve. We also honor them celebrating their lives and legacies. For years, Sen. Brown has supported the *Veterans' History Project* which enables veterans to share their stories with friends and family members. These stories are recorded and then kept for future generations at the Library of Congress. By working with Ohio's veterans, the stories of how Ohioans have contributed to protecting and defending our nation remain a part of our nation's history.



Sen. Brown also cosponsored bipartisan legislation honoring the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces who are serving in or have served in *Operation Enduring Freedom*, *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, and *Operation New Dawn*. The legislation passed the Senate in June.

Supporting Ohio's First Responders

Strengthening Ohio Fire Departments

Ohio firefighters put their lives on the line every day across Ohio. In 2011, Sen. Brown fought and won increased funding for the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grants program that gives critical support to local fire departments across Ohio. AFG grants help local fire departments improve the effectiveness of firefighting operations and enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public. Thanks to support from the AFG program, local fire departments in Ohio have received funding for activities such as specialized emergency training for response to situations like terrorist attacks, enhancement of emergency medical services programs, development of health and safety initiatives, establishment of fire education and prevention programs, creation of wellness and fitness programs, and equipment and facility upgrades.

Sen. Brown also helped to defeat proposals that would have set up significant roadblocks to ensuring these funds would get to fire departments with the most need. Sen. Brown fought to waive efforts that would have had rendered the AFG program out of reach for most communities. These waivers allowed Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) grants to be used in fiscal year 2012 to rehire laid-off firefighters and fill positions eliminated through attrition and to remove cost-share requirements.

Protecting the Law Enforcement Officers Who Protect Us

Every year, dozens of law enforcement officers are killed in the line of duty, with thousands more injured or assaulted while on the job. During National Police Week in May, Sen. Brown announced the *National Blue Alert Act of 2011*, which would create a national "Blue Alert"

system aimed at apprehending criminals who injure or kill law enforcement officers serving in the line of duty.



A Blue Alert system would help track down and apprehend those who engage in these heinous crimes. It would be modeled after the “Amber Alert” system currently used to notify the public about a missing child by disseminating critical information about the suspect to law enforcement agencies, the public, and the media. The bill has been endorsed by several law enforcement organizations, including C.O.P.S., the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the

National Sherriff’s Association, and the Sergeant’s Benevolent Association.

Building Safer Communities

The federal Fugitive Safe Surrender program – administered by the U.S. Department of Justice – aims to reduce the risk to law enforcement officers who pursue fugitives, to the neighborhoods in which they hide, and to the fugitives themselves. In April, Sen. Brown introduced legislation aimed at preserving Fugitive Safe Surrender, which allows individuals wanted for non-violent felony or misdemeanor crimes to voluntarily surrender to the law in a safe and non-violent environment. Fugitive Safe Surrender was developed by Cleveland-based U.S. Marshal Peter Elliott in 2004, but in March, the U.S. Marshals Service announced it could no longer afford to continue the program. Sen. Brown’s legislation would give the U.S. Attorney General flexibility in administering the program and would authorize funding for the program at \$5 million a year for the next five fiscal years.

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Social Security and Seniors

Social Security provides a vital safety net for approximately 55 million Americans, including more than two million Ohioans. The program has been critical to reducing the financial uncertainty that can accompany aging, disability, or illness – lifting more than 500,000 Ohioans out of poverty. Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring that seniors continue to receive the benefits they deserve.

Retirement Security and Offsetting Rising Costs

After two years without a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), seniors will finally receive a 3.6 percent increase in their Social Security payments in 2012.

Social Security COLAs are based on a formula set in law in the 1970s. Unfortunately, this formula measures inflation based on the purchasing habits of younger, employed individuals, rather than seniors who are older and often retired.

Because the COLA formula does not properly measure seniors' spending habits, Sen. Brown introduced the *Consumer Price for Elderly Consumers Act*, which would create a formula specifically geared towards seniors' needs. If passed, this legislation would result in an additional \$800 for the average Social Security beneficiary. Last year, Sen. Brown was an original sponsor of the *Emergency Senior Citizens Relief Act of 2010*, which would have provided Social Security beneficiaries with a one-time \$250 emergency payment in lieu of a COLA.

Sen. Brown does not support reducing benefit levels, raising the retirement age, or privatizing Social Security.

Preserving Medicare

It is crucial to preserve and strengthen Medicare so that retirees and individuals with disabilities can continue to rely on the essential health care coverage it provides. Prior to Medicare's creation in 1965, only half of America's seniors had health insurance and most of those with insurance only had coverage for inpatient hospital care. Additionally, prior to the implementation of Medicare, approximately 30 percent of seniors lived below the poverty line. Now, only 1.8 percent of our nation's seniors lack health coverage and less than nine percent live below the poverty line.

Following passage in the House of Representatives of a bill that would privatize Medicare, Sen. Brown led a group of 50 Senators in writing to President Obama expressing their opposition to the House plan that would replace



traditional Medicare with a voucher program. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in the first year of the private voucher program out-of-pocket expenses for seniors would double to more than \$12,500 annually. In contrast, the average Ohio senior receives \$14,000 per year in Social Security benefits.



Sen. Brown believes there are ways to reduce Medicare spending without simply slashing benefits or cost-shifting to seniors or the states, which is why he wrote to President Obama advocating for swifter implementation of health care delivery system reforms. This approach would not only reduce cost for seniors, Medicare, Medicaid, and the federal government, but would also reduce costs for all Americans.

Closing the “Donut Hole”

Through *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)*, seniors saw a number of new benefits through the Medicare program in 2011. Over time, PPACA fixes the dangerous Medicare prescription drug coverage gap known as the “donut hole.” Since the inception of the Part D program in 2003, seniors who reach a limit on covered drugs are often left having to pay the entire cost of prescriptions for a period of time until coverage kicks in again. In 2010, Medicare beneficiaries who entered the “donut hole” received a \$250 dollar check to help offset the cost of their medications. In 2011, Medicare beneficiaries who entered the “donut hole” automatically receive a 50 percent discount on their brand name prescription drugs. This discount will increase each year until 2020 when the “donut hole” is closed. In 2011, approximately 140,000 Ohioans entered the donut hole and because of PPACA they have each saved an average of \$467. That’s more than \$64 million in savings for Ohio seniors alone.

Providing Preventative Services to Seniors Under Medicare

The health reform law is also providing free preventive services, such as colonoscopies and mammograms, to seniors with traditional Medicare. There will no longer be copayments or deductibles for these types of services. More than 24 million beneficiaries, including more than 800,000 Ohioans, with Medicare Part B received a free annual physical or other screening exam in 2011.

Helping Seniors Evaluate Coverage Options

The health reform law is also providing seniors with new tools to evaluate Medicare Advantage and Part D plans. Beneficiaries can visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) website to see how various plans compare. Plans that have achieved the highest rating – five stars – will be denoted by a gold star icon so that they are easy to identify.

Fighting Medicare Fraud

PPACA also provides the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the CMS with additional tools to fight fraud proactively. Prior to the passage of the health reform law, CMS

would track down fraudulent claims after they had already been paid. Enhancements in PPACA will help put an end to “pay and chase,” protecting legitimate beneficiaries while working to prevent fraudsters from entering the system.

Preventing Identity Theft

Identity theft is a growing problem across the country as more and more individuals find that their credit card numbers, bank account numbers, and Social Security numbers have been compromised. Sen. Brown has long advocated for the removal of Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and federal, state, or local agency checks. While legislation regarding agency checks passed the Senate in December 2010, Sen. Brown continues to fight to have the numbers removed from Medicare cards.

Additionally, after learning that the Social Security numbers of deceased individuals are available on genealogy websites and then being used to commit tax fraud, Sen. Brown called for these sites to remove the numbers. He also called upon the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to investigate the practices of these websites and ensure that victims of tax fraud are provided with a prompt remedy. Following Sen. Brown’s actions, Ancestry.com agreed to remove Social Security numbers from its site.

Ensuring Equal Treatment for Seniors



Sen. Brown believes that Members of Congress need to lead by example. While he is a staunch opponent of raising the retirement age for Social Security, especially for Ohioans who work on their feet in industries such as construction, nursing, and manufacturing, he believes that Congress should abide by any decision it makes for Social Security recipients.

Sen. Brown authored the *Congressional Retirement Age Act of 2011*, which would tie Members of Congress’ retirement age to the Social Security retirement age. So, if the Social Security retirement age is increased to 70 then a Senator or Member of Congress cannot receive his or her pension until also reaching age 70. The legislation also prevents Members of Congress from collecting pensions until they have retired from Congress.

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Transportation and Infrastructure

Realizing that a strong infrastructure is the foundation for job creation and economic development, Sen. Brown is a vocal advocate for investing in infrastructure to create jobs and promote long-term economic growth. Ohio's system of highways, ports, rails, and airports has led to the state's economic strength. A lack of investment in our infrastructure cedes a competitive advantage to emerging economies like China, imperils public health and safety, and harms our environment.

Investing in Roads and Bridges



Continued underinvestment in Ohio's roads and bridges leads to traffic jams, unsafe roads and bridges, and lost business productivity. These investments are especially critical to the construction industry, where unemployment rates outpace those of the overall working population.

In September, Sen. Brown introduced the *National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2011* to further spur investment and construction of critical infrastructure projects across the country. This bill would create a standalone entity that would provide low-interest and negative-interest rate loans to fund projects of regional and national significance that create jobs, ensure economic investment, and have in place at least 50 percent of necessary financing.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, for every \$1 billion spent on highway and bridge construction, nearly 35,000 jobs are created. These include direct jobs involved in the construction of infrastructure projects, indirect jobs created by the purchase of supplies for projects, and induced jobs supported by new consumer spending when Americans go back to work.

Additionally, infrastructure investments including transportation improvements and ensuring clean, affordable water help to attract economic development. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, failing infrastructure could cost the U.S. \$2.7 trillion – or \$129 billion a year – in lost productivity and lost income in trade in the coming decades.

Building on Ohio's Aviation Heritage

As the birthplace of aviation, Ohio has a long history with all things flight related. Sen. Brown has been active in ensuring that our commercial airports help Ohio residents and business have access to the world. Sen. Brown joined the Cincinnati business community in calling for Delta Airlines to reduce fares and reconsider service cuts at the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport.

Sen. Brown is working to establish Southwest Ohio as a hub for the emerging unmanned aerial systems (UAS) industry. In February, he worked to successfully amend the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill to increase the number of designated sites across the

country to UAS and save taxpayer dollars by ensuring sites selected have the infrastructure necessary to carry out these tests. Because of the amendment, the Reauthorization Bill also directs the FAA Administrator to consult with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Defense (DOD)—two principal users and researchers of UAS. By requiring coordination with NASA and DOD, the authorization increases the likelihood that tests would be done in restricted air space surrounding Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Investing in Railroads

Sen. Brown has continued to work with Ohio's short line and Class-A railroads to ensure that shippers receive fair rates and on-time railroad service. He fought for a Recovery Act grant for CSX's National Gateway project in North Baltimore which helped create more than 250 jobs in Wood County through the construction of a multimodal facility. Additionally, investments in the Heartland Corridor at Rickenbacker Airport outside of Columbus, funded by both the Recovery Act and Federal Highway Administration, led to the arrival of the first double-stack trains in Central Ohio. Sen. Brown continues to work with Columbus's civic and business leaders on this high priority project.

Ensuring Access to Transit

Sen. Brown is working to improve Ohio's transit systems. He supported successful transit grant bids submitted by Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Canton. Realizing that access to transit means access to jobs and economic opportunity, Sen. Brown introduced legislation supported by the Ohio Public Transit Association that would allow transit systems to use federal dollars targeted for capital expenditure for operating costs in times of economic downturn. This would prevent transit agencies from cutting routes, reducing service frequency, or laying off workers.

Federal spending to help transit agencies replace aging fuel-inefficient buses and improve safety of the rail lines and stations in Cleveland has also increased substantially from 2006-2011. To ensure that America's manufacturing sector is benefiting from this increase in transit funding, in the 111th and 112th Congress Sen. Brown introduced the *SMART Act (Strengthening Manufacturing and Rebuilding Transit)* to ensure that Buy American requirements are in place, the domestic supply has the capacity to meet demand, and Buy American requirements are being enforced as they relate to transit procurement with federal funds.

Improving Motorcoach Safety

As they have done in previous years, Sen. Brown and Sen. Hutchison (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan *Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act* in 2011. Sen. Brown first introduced the legislation—which was passed unanimously by a key Senate panel in May and awaits final passage by the full Senate—following a 2007 crash of a tour bus carrying 33 Bluffton University baseball players that claimed seven lives. In July, Sen. Brown was joined by Greyhound CEO David Leach who announced his company's support for the *Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act of 2011*.



In Touch with Ohioans

Sen. Brown is working to ensure that Ohioans stay informed of important issues as well as of his work in Congress and across the state.

Sen. Brown's website includes dynamic, interactive resources for Ohioans to directly access services, find information on issues and legislation, and learn the latest news from Congress and Sen. Brown's listening tours and activities across Ohio. Please visit <http://brown.senate.gov>. You can also hear directly from Sen. Brown on Twitter by following him or viewing his profile at <http://twitter.com/SenSherrodBrown>.

Sen. Brown also sends regular e-newsletters, publishes monthly columns, and sends letters to the editor to Ohio newspapers that address issues important to Ohioans. You can sign up for both general and issue-specific newsletters through Sen. Brown's website, <http://brown.senate.gov>. You can also watch videos of Sen. Brown or listen to remarks on hot button issues.

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