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Constituent Services
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NORTHEAST OHIO QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2011

Dear Friends,

I wanted to share some updates with you from the last few months. Below you will find stories on the following subjects:

1. [Brown Applauds American Greetings Commitment to Remain in Northeast Ohio and Save Jobs](#)
2. [Brown Swears in Judge Benita Pearson in Youngstown](#)
3. [Brown Visits with Mansfield Seniors to Discuss New Medicare Benefits in Health Reform Law](#)
4. [Brown Convenes Northeast Ohio Regional P-16 Education Conference](#)
5. [Brown Announces Recovery Act Funds Will Bring High-Speed Broadband to Medina County](#)
6. [Brown Takes Northeast Ohio Values to Washington, Fights for Workers and to Save Jobs from Going Overseas](#)
7. [Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You](#)

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Brown Applauds American Greetings Commitment to Remain in Northeast Ohio and Save Jobs

In March, Brown applauded American Greetings's announcement that the company will remain in Northeast Ohio.



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown displays a greeting card sent to American Greetings urging the company to remain in Northeast Ohio.

In January 2010, American Greetings announced plans to consider moving its headquarters from Brooklyn, Ohio to elsewhere in Ohio or out of state. As of November, the company had narrowed its search down to seven sites in Ohio and Illinois. The company employs approximately 2,000 at its Brooklyn headquarters. Sen. Brown has been fighting to save these jobs and to keep the company in Ohio.

In February, while American Greetings was in its final stages of determining a headquarters location, Brown [sent a letter to CEO Zev Weiss](#) urging him to consider the loyal Ohio workers that have contributed to the success of the company.

In the letter, Brown cited the strength and loyalty of

the workforce at American Greetings and the support of the Brooklyn community. This past holiday season, Brown worked with the Brooklyn community to coordinate an oversized holiday card urging the company to remain in the state. It was signed by local residents and delivered to American Greetings.

Brown Swears in 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 Brown and retired Ohio Sen. George V. Voinovich originally recommended Magistrate Pearson for the position.

Based on that recommendation, in July 2009, Brown and 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 on December 21, 2010.

Brown Convenes Northeast Ohio Regional P-16 Education Conference

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 enter the workforce.

Brown Visits with Mansfield Seniors to Discuss New Medicare Benefits in Health Reform Law

Sen. Brown visited the People's Community Center in Mansfield in February 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, 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.

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

Brown Announces Recovery Act Funds Will Bring High-Speed Broadband to Medina County

High-speed broadband access is critical for economic development and job growth. In March, Sen. Brown praised a new 151-mile fiberoptic rural broadband network for Medina County, funded in part by the Recovery Act.

With new or increased broadband access, rural communities can attract new businesses; schools can create distance learning opportunities; medical professionals can provide costefficient remote diagnoses and care; and business owners can expand their product markets to better compete in the global economy. Medina County is a model for this type of critical rural infrastructure expansion.

Brown Takes Northeast Ohio Values to Washington, Fights for Workers and to Save Jobs from Going Overseas

Sen. Brown is fighting for Ohio workers by working to enforce existing trade agreements and ensure laid-off

workers receive the retraining they need.

Brown fought to extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program, a critical lifeline for workers who lose their jobs due to foreign trade. TAA provides training and re-employment services designed to help these workers develop skills to find new jobs.

As one of the last acts before the 111th Congress adjourned in December, Brown secured a six-week extension of TAA as well as the Health Care Tax Credit (HCTC), a program that helps tradeaffected workers afford private health insurance. Among other groups of workers, this provision would assist Delphi retirees in Northeast Ohio who have yet to receive pension or healthcare benefits from their former employer, General Motors.

In December, Brown [fought to extend the programs](#) for 18 months, but the Senate [only cleared a six-week extension](#). In February, Brown [led a group of 14 senators](#) to urge House leadership to pass an extension. Each of Brown's attempts to pass an extension was blocked by Republicans.

According to the Department of Labor, an estimated 32,389 Ohio workers were certified for TAA assistance since May 2009, second only to Michigan. Letting the program expire shuts out workers from the training they need if they lose their jobs to countries other than those with which we have free trade agreements.

Brown is also working to prevent lost jobs overseas by ensuring that our free trade agreements are enforced and that American manufacturers can compete on an even playing field in the global economy.

Unfair trade subsidies mean lost jobs, stagnant wages, and communities struggling without tax revenue to support basic services and schools.

Brown has repeatedly urged the Obama Administration to take a stand against unfair and illegal trade practices that undermine American manufacturers. Most recently, [Brown testified](#) before the International Trade Commission on behalf of Ohio aluminum extrusion workers faced with a flood of cheap Chinese imports. Affected companies in Northeast Ohio are located in Youngstown, Niles, Canfield, Leetonia, Struthers, N. Jackson, Mt. Eaton, and Canton.

Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You

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 liaison 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.

For example, Sen. Brown presented the Purple Heart to Ohio WWII veteran Michael Demich of Lorain in December. The



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown speaks with workers at a press conference in Warren to promote TAA.



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown speaks with workers and managers at Wheatland Tube in Warren along with leadership from V&M Star, the United Steelworkers (USW), and State Senator Joe Schiavoni.



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown presents a medal to Lorain, Ohio veteran Michael Demich.

U.S. Army veteran received the Purple Heart and additional service medals to replace the medals stolen during a home invasion. Sen. Brown's office offered to assist Mr. Demich following the theft. Mr. Demich was wounded in action during his service in France in 1944.

Additionally, a Northeast Ohio constituent contacted Brown's office about a problem with her Social Security disability claim. She had a favorable decision on her claim, but she had not received the retroactive benefits she needed. On her behalf, Sen. Brown's office contacted the Social Security Administration. Within weeks, the agency processed the proper payment.



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