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CENTRAL OHIO QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

SECOND QUARTER 2011

Dear Friends,

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

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Weekly Column



Visiting Navistar in Springfield and Marking Increased Production



Sen. Brown hears from workers at Navistar in Springfield.

In August 2010, Navistar sent layoff notices to nearly 400 Springfield workers and there was uncertainty about the Springfield plant's future. Following the announcement, 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 October 2010, Navistar and the UAW announced an agreement that would keep the Springfield facility open. In December 2010, Brown called on Navistar to maximize production levels at the plant and reinstate some of the laid off workers. Since then, the company has begun ramping up production in Springfield.

In April 2011, Sen. Brown visited Navistar's Springfield plant to mark increased production at the facility. Sen. Brown was joined by the company management and union leadership while he met with workers and toured the plant.

According to the company, production has doubled and nearly 200 employees have been recalled from layoff since December 2010. Navistar International Corp. produces commercial trucks, school buses, motor homes, and diesel engines.

Brown recently introduced the bipartisan National Manufacturing Strategy Act of 2011 to bolster the competitiveness of traditional and high-tech manufacturing, spur American job growth, and strengthen the middle class.

Highlighting a Program That Reduces Medical Costs and Improves Quality 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 in Franklin County which improves the delivery of care and reduces medical errors in ICUs. The effort is aimed at improving patient outcomes and reducing medical costs.

This 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 saving and improved patient care through the initiative.

Because of the Solutions for Patient Safety Initiative, there has been more than \$12.8 million in health care savings, 900 fewer patient days spent in the hospital each year and nearly 3,600 fewer adverse drug events and infections in children. The initiative's leaders—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 Sec. Sebelius.

Sen. Brown remains dedicated to promoting patient safety, reducing costs, and improving the health care system to help keep Ohioans healthy.



Sen. Brown and Sec. Sebelius meet with Solutions for Patient Safety Initiative leaders at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Applauding Summer Associates Helping to Improve Summer Food Programs

More than 40 percent of Ohio students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches during the school year. During the summer months, the Summer Food Service Program ensures that students who depend on nutrition assistance during the school year don't go hungry once school is out of session. Brown, a leading voice in the U.S. Congress for eradicating hunger and improving childhood nutrition, has been working to ensure greater access to summer food programs.

In June 2011, a top U.S. Department of Agriculture official, Undersecretary Kevin Concannon, and a representative from Sen. Brown's office congratulated a group of SHARECorps Summer Associates participating in a ten week service program to strengthen Ohio's Summer Food Service Programs by assisting at feeding sites. The Associates were sworn-in during a ceremony in Columbus hosted by the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. Brown swore in last year's participants at a similar ceremony in Columbus in June 2010.

Delivering the Second Annual Goldberg Lecture at The Ohio State University

The Harvey Goldberg Center for Excellence in Teaching embodies a mission of education as life-long learning to prepare students to be responsible and active citizens. In April 2011, Sen. Brown was invited to deliver The Ohio State University Harvey Goldberg Lecture to 100 members of the University faculty, staff, administrators, students, and alumni.

In his speech Sen. Brown discussed the role of education as a means of economic opportunity and inclusion as well as the role of education in the future of Ohio's middleclass. He also highlighted May 3rd as Teacher Appreciation Day and the role teachers play in shaping Ohio's future leaders.

Taking Central Ohio's Values to Washington; Fighting to Keep Medicare Off the Chopping Block



Sen. Brown holds a forum on Medicare with seniors at the Clintonville Community Resources Center.

Sen. Sherrod Brown is leading an effort to save Medicare from the budget chopping block. In May 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Republican budget to privatize Medicare through a voucher system that would increase monthly prescription drug costs by more than 100 percent for Ohio seniors. Brown led a group of 50 Senators in signing a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to the plan.

Following the House vote, Brown joined the Alliance for Retired Americans Director Norm Wernet and dozens of Central Ohio seniors to stand against threats to dismantle Medicare as we know it.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, in the first year of the voucher program, out-of-pocket expenses for seniors would double under the House plan to more than \$12,500 annually. For seniors on a fixed income, a doubling of out-of-pocket expenses is simply unaffordable, particularly when the average Social Security benefit is only \$14,000 per year.

In May 2011, Sen. Brown joined a group of Central Ohio seniors at the Clintonville Community Resources Center in Columbus to stand against threats to the health coverage of nearly 2 million Ohio seniors. Brown, community and senior leaders, and a local retiree discussed how attempts to privatize Medicare would seriously impact Columbus seniors and would increase out-of-pocket costs for healthcare.

The Senate voted down the Republican budget, and Brown continues to work to protect Medicare. In June 2011, he wrote a letter to Vice President Biden calling for the Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it to be taken off the table during the deficit reduction negotiations.

Sen. Brown will fight any effort to dismantle Medicare and force benefit cuts upon seniors under the guise of deficit reduction. Our nation's seniors are not responsible for the fiscal challenges we face, and they should not be responsible for shouldering the burden of reducing our deficits.

My 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 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.

For example, a Central Ohio constituent asked Sen. Brown to assist with a matter involving the Internal Revenue Service and the Homebuyer Tax Credit. Sen. Brown's office referred the inquiry to the Taxpayer Advocate Service. After a further review of the constituent's documentation, the agency approved the tax credit.

Finally, a constituent with an expired passport contacted Sen. Brown's office when she became nervous that her renewal passport would not be completed prior to her travel. Sen. Brown's office contacted the Passport Office on her behalf. The agency confirmed the passport was being processed and would arrive in a timely manner.



Sen. Brown speaks to a veteran at Capital University in Columbus.



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