



C o n g r e s s m a n

SHERROD BROWN

WORKING FOR YOU

SPRING 2004

Jobs and the Economy

Since 2001, America's economy has lost more than 2.6 million jobs. Over 300,000 Ohioans are looking for work, and many have been looking six months or longer. The federal government is debating policies that will affect economic recovery in Ohio and throughout the nation.

Reward Investments in America

Congressman Brown supports the Job Protection Act, which bases business tax benefits on U.S. production. With more than 170 bipartisan cosponsors, and endorsements by both the National Association of Manufacturers and the AFL-CIO, the Job Protection Act is the right plan for U.S. manufacturers.



Support Ohio Manufacturers

The Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP) helped 2,700 Ohio companies improve their efficiency and save \$47 million in 2003. President Bush's budget maintains a 65% cut in MEP funding. Congressman Brown has called on House leadership to restore funding for MEP.

Responsible Trade Policy

President Bush is set to sign the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in May. CAFTA expands the failed policies of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which caused the United States to lose more than 500,000 jobs. Without proper labor and environmental standards, CAFTA will only ship more U.S. jobs overseas. The United States must support trade agreements that preserve U.S. jobs and manufacturing, and protect workers' rights here and overseas.

Unemployment Extension

Congress allowed extended unemployment to end last year. As a result, Ohio workers lost benefits that help their families make ends meet. Congressman Brown has cosponsored legislation to extend unemployment benefits.

May, 2004

Dear Friends:

Ohio has faced devastating job losses since 2001. With 170,000 jobs lost, our manufacturing sector has been hardest hit by the recession.

The federal government can and should do more to help. But budget cuts and unsound tax and trade policy would actually hurt Ohio workers and manufacturers.

As we face these challenges in coming months, I welcome your guidance. Please call, e-mail, or write to share your views.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown

Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card

Beginning May 3, Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in a drug discount card program. Some low income seniors are also eligible for up to \$600 toward prescription purchases. It is important to consider the benefits carefully before signing up for a card. Some cards may not cover the specific drugs you use. Covered drugs and discounts can change as often as once a week, and card sponsors do not have to notify you of these changes. You can learn more and compare prices of covered drugs at **www.medicare.gov** or by calling **1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227)**. Sponsors will advertise their cards in the media and by mail, but they cannot call or visit you. If you receive a call or visit offering a discount card, report this scam by calling **1-800-MEDICARE**.

Medicare Forum

The new Medicare prescription drug law is confusing, and many Ohio seniors have questions about the new benefits. More than 100 area residents attended Congressman Brown's April informational forums in Akron and Lorain. Both events featured presentations from the health care advocacy organization Families USA, the Ohio Department of Insurance, and Ohio's Medicare contractor. Learn more about the Medicare law by visiting my Website: **www.house.gov/sherrodbrown**.



Congressman Brown talks with Ohio seniors at the Medicare forum.

President's Budget Threatens Akron Housing Programs

The budget submitted to Congress by President Bush contains drastic cuts to housing assistance and revitalization programs key to economic and community development in Akron.

The HOPE VI program, which provided nearly \$20 million to revitalize the Elizabeth Park Homes in Akron, received zero funding in the Bush budget. In addition, drastic cuts were made to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, which provides rental assistance to thousands of Akron families. Congressman Brown pledged to fight these budget cuts, which threaten Akron's housing security.

Your Vote Counts

Voting is a fundamental right and duty of citizenship. You can take an active role in government by voting this year.

If you have not registered to vote at your current address, you must register by October 4th to vote in the November 2nd gener-

al election. You can use the form on the opposite page to register. You do not need to complete items 7 or 8. For item 6, use your Social Security number or driver's license number. If you have neither, write "None" in 6. Mail the completed form to:

Secretary of State of Ohio
Elections Division
180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

You can download and print the complete instructions from the Federal Election Commission Website (**www.fec.gov**).

Voter Registration Application

Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)				This space for office use only.			
1	(Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV		
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State	Zip Code	
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town	State	Zip Code	
4	Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Month Day Year		5	Telephone Number (optional)	6 ID Number - (See Item 6 in the instructions for your state)		
7	Choice of Party <small>(see item 7 in the instructions for your State)</small>		8	Race or Ethnic Group <small>(see item 8 in the instructions for your State)</small>			
9	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: <input type="checkbox"/> I am a United States citizen <input type="checkbox"/> I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. <input type="checkbox"/> The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States.				Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲ _____ Date: _____ Month Day Year		

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

A	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV
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If you were **registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
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If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. ■ Draw an X to show where you live. ■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark. 	NORTH ▲							
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Example</td> <td style="width: 5%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Route #2</td> <td style="width: 75%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">● Grocery Store</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Woodchuck Road</div> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Public School ●</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> </table>	Example	Route #2	<div style="text-align: center;">● Grocery Store</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Woodchuck Road</div>	Public School ●		X		
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Public School ●		X							

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.

Veterans Update

Congressman Brown voted for an amendment to restore \$1.3 billion cut from the VA health care budget by the Republican House leadership. The Republican majority defeated that amendment and passed its plan instead.

The Bush administration budget for FY 2005 also inadequately funds veterans programs. It would raise health care costs for more than 500,000 veterans and impose new co-payments and enrollment fees costing veterans more than \$2 billion over five years. According to VA Secretary Anthony Principi, the President's budget is \$1.2 billion short of what the VA needs to adequately serve eligible veterans. Veterans organizations, including the VFW and Disabled American Veterans, issued strong statements criticizing this shortfall.

Elyria Amtrak Service Restored

In March, Amtrak reversed last year's decision to reduce passenger rail service to Lorain County. Brown had urged Amtrak officials to retain the Elyria stop of the Lake Shore Limited, which runs from Chicago through New York to Boston. Service resumed April 26th.



Congressman Brown congratulates Dr. Luc Montagnier (left) and Dr. Harry Coover, two of this year's inductees into the Akron-based National Inventors Hall of Fame. Dr. Montagnier invented the first reliable HIV test, and Dr. Coover invented Superglue.

Save Money & Energy

From proper tire inflation to choosing the right air conditioner, there are a lot of things you can do to save money and energy this summer. To learn more, visit www.house.gov/sherrodbrown.

Congressman **SHERROD BROWN** *Here to Serve You*

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