

OHLA Government Affairs Update

OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION

December 3, 2025

OHLA Honors Rep. Melanie Miller as Legislator of the Year for 2025

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association has recognized State Representative Melanie Miller (R-Ashland) as its 2025 Star Legislator of the Year at its Annual Conference & Gala on November 24 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton.

Producing favorable public policy outcomes for hotel & lodging owners, operators and employees is a core “Area of Focus” for OHLA. From health restrictions, to taxation, to fire codes, to labor laws, to liability, its leadership and government affairs team work hard for the industry every day at the local, state and national level.

The work OHLA does would not be possible without hardworking lawmakers who partner with industry to make Ohio a better place to do business, to live, and to visit. As everyone in the travel economy works hard every day to return to the healthy growth experienced prior to 2020, investment in efforts to bring more visitors to our state and solidify its position as a leading place to work, live, learn and play is critical.



Representative Melanie Miller plays a key role in that process, through her leadership of the newly-created Ohio House Arts, Athletics and Tourism Committee. She made support for our industry a priority by using the committee as a way to focus on the impact travel and tourism has on jobs, investment and economic growth.

As the committee chair, Representative Miller worked especially hard this year to help secure additional funding for the state's official destination marketing efforts through TourismOhio and its “The Heart of It All” campaigns.

Because of her leadership and hard work, these efforts produced millions of dollars in additional funding for TourismOhio, a significant and impactful increase that helps us compete for more visitors and more business. We continue to work together to ensure this investment will grow Ohio's travel economy.



Representative Miller has also demonstrated a true commitment to continuing to support and grow the travel economy, including the official state effort to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence through America 250 – Ohio.

She is serving her second term in the Ohio House, representing the 67th District, including all of Ashland County and the western portion of Medina County. She also serves on the Health, Technology & Innovation, and Children & Human Services Committees.

Representative Miller is the Executive Director of the Ashland Pregnancy Care Center, honored as the “2018 Health & Medical Services Organization of the Year” and voted by the community as the “Best Non-Profit” in Ashland County. She served as Youth Ministries Director at The Salvation Army Kroc Corps Community Center, was a former professional NBA dancer for the Cleveland Cavaliers and was crowned Miss Ohio 2006 and Mrs. Ohio America 2011. A recipient of the Ashland County Women of Achievement Award and a graduate of the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Ashland program, she is a member of the Northern Medina County Chamber Alliance and Ashland County Farm Bureau.

Joe Savarise, President & CEO
PH: (614) 461-6462 E: joe@ohla.org

Michael Evans, OHLA Government Affairs Representative
PH: (614) 560-3929 E: michael@allphaseconsulting.com

OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION
175 S. THIRD ST. SUITE 170
COLUMBUS OH 43215-1564