

## *Education poverty task force meets*

After naming nine members to serve on the new House Task Force on Education and Poverty created by Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) earlier this year, state Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) has convened the group to begin addressing key priorities.

At the first meeting, Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) staff began to frame the issue by presenting statistics on poverty and how poverty widens the achievement gap between students.

At the second meeting, task force members heard from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio staff about the strong link between health, income and education. Although no state or federal laws require schools to provide health services to all students, the institute recommends doing so through community collaborations.

In addition to Cupp, nine individuals comprise the task force: Rep. Margaret Conditt (R-Liberty Twp.); Rep. Darrell Kick (R-Loudonville); Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.); Cuyahoga County Educational Service Center Superintendent Bob Mengerink; Lancaster City Schools Career and Technical Education Director Anthony Knickerbocker; Cambridge Education Group President John Stack; Wellston School District Superintendent Karen Boch; BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools CEO Thomas Maridada, II; and, KIPP Columbus Executive Director Hannah Powell.

Cupp described the task force's goals as generating "information that will be useful to members of the General Assembly in their deliberations on education policy and to derive some practicable and proven-effective strategies from this effort that can be supported and enhanced by legislative and state policy."