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**Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition  
Legislative Activities Report  
May 2018**

Ohio held its primary election on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. This election cycle represents a year of change for Ohio, with all five statewide offices on the ballot, as well as a U.S. Senate seat, all of Ohio's Congressional seats, two positions on the Ohio Supreme Court, half of the Ohio Senate seats, and all 99 Ohio House seats.

In Ohio's race for governor, Mike DeWine is the Republican nominee, defeating current Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor. On the Democratic side, former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray successfully defeated his primary opponents and will be the Democrat nominee. The general election is a 2010 rematch of the Attorney General Race that saw DeWine defeat Cordray by only one percentage point. In the other statewide races, long time OARP friend, Robert Sprague won the Republican primary for Treasurer.

On the federal level, current U.S. Congressman Jim Rennaci was successful in securing the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate; he will challenge Democrat Sherrod Brown in the fall. Republican Anthony Gonzalez defeated current state Rep. Christina Hagan in his bid to replace Rennaci in the 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District. Two Ohio Senate Republicans, Troy Balderson and Kevin Bacon, faced off to replace Congressman Pat Tiberi, who left office earlier this year. Balderson is the winner with a very slight 700 vote advantage over Melanie Leneghan. Balderson will face off against Democrat Danny O'Connor who defeated a large slate of Democrats seeking the party's nomination.

Results from the primary election also show strong support for Issue 1, the only statewide issue appearing on the ballot. Issue 1 is a proposed constitutional amendment to change how Ohio draws congressional district boundaries.

On the administrative front, ODM recently submitted its waiver request to CMS seeking permission to apply a work requirement to a certain population of consumers in the expansion population. Medicaid Director Barbara Sears said the department has had to review the hundreds of comments submitted on the proposal, including 650 hard copies of comments submitted on the last day of the comment period. The waiver exempts individuals 65 and over, those in school or job training, individuals in treatment and individuals with serious mental or physical illness from the work requirement. ODM expects that, if approved, the requirement will only impact about 36,000 Medicaid consumers, forcing them to find employment or lose coverage.

Ohio Medicaid recently filed new versions of all of the DME rules with JCARR. This includes the Medicaid SGD rule and the hearing aid rule. The department has also revised and filed the DME repair rule. GAC has already made several concerns known regarding the SGD rule. Changes to the hearing aid rule appear less impactful. GAC will need to carefully review all of these rules to determine if we intend to testify at the public hearing set for May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Ohio Speech Professionals Board reached out to GAC last week to let us know that they intend to pursue legislation to update some of their licensure laws. Most of the changes are relatively technical in nature and are outlined in a chart provided by the Board (see separate document). Many of the revisions were necessitated by the merger of the OBSLPA and the Hearing Aid Dealers Board earlier this year. The Board has offered to meet with GAC should we have concerns or questions.

Also on the legislative front, you may recall that GAC was approached by Senator Kenny Yuko's office recently to participate in an interested parties meeting on music therapy. The music therapy association has asked him to sponsor their licensure legislation. The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. Many other interested parties will also be attending the meeting, including Gregg Thornton from the Speech & Hearing Professionals Board and representatives from the OT and PT associations.

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped to 4.4% in March, reflecting the lowest level since August 2001. The unemployment total has dropped by 40,000 since March 2017, when the rate was 5.1%. Despite the good news, Ohio still lags the nation, as the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.1%.

We have been tracking the following legislation during the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly:

**HB49**      **OPERATING BUDGET (SMITH R)** Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

*Current Status:* 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto

**HB51 DEPARTMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE (FABER K)** To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

*Current Status:* 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)

**HB75 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE-ARMED FORCES (GAVARONE T, MERRIN D)** To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state.

*Current Status:* 3/15/2017 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, (Second Hearing)

**HB85 ENTER HEALTH CARE COMPACT (RETFERFORD W)** To enter into the Health Care Compact.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - House Federalism and Interstate Relations, (First Hearing)

**HB98 CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K)** Regarding the presentation of career information to students, the calculation of Ohio College Opportunity Grant awards, and career-technical educator licenses; to modify degree requirements for interim career-technical teachers; to provide an additional payment to school districts with nuclear power plants in their territories that meet specified criteria; and to modify the earmarked appropriations for certain payments to school districts.

*Current Status:* 3/30/2018 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

**HB115 DATABASE-PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITY (GAVARONE T, WIGGAM S)** To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.

*Current Status:* 5/2/2018 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

**HB131 PHYSICAL THERAPY LAWS (GAVARONE T, REINEKE W)** To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

*Current Status:* 4/11/2018 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 95-0

- HB150**      **LICENSE PLATE CREATION (PATMON B)** To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals.  
*Current Status:* 6/7/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety,  
(Second Hearing)
- HB262**      **INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS (BUTLER, JR. J, ROMANCHUK M)** To provide for the preparation of a state biennial budget independent of that submitted by the Governor and to authorize the Legislative Service Commission, upon the request of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate, to arrange for an independent actuarial review of a proposed bill, specified analyses of economic policy initiatives and state benchmarking data, and a study of the state's long-range financial outlook.  
*Current Status:* 6/20/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight
- HB280**      **MOTORCYCLE EARPLUGS (GOODMAN W)** To permit a person to wear earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.  
*Current Status:* 11/8/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety,  
(Second Hearing)
- HB289**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW (HOOD R, MCCOLLEY R)** To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, to require the Common Sense Initiative Office to review certain actions taken by occupational licensing boards, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.  
*Current Status:* 1/30/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)
- HB382**      **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW (SCHURING K)** To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law.  
*Current Status:* 3/21/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Twentieth Hearing)

- HB399**      **HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS INCENTIVES** (HENNE M, BUTLER, JR. J) To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees.  
*Current Status:* 11/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Health
- HB440**      **SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE** (FEDOR T, KENT B) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.  
*Current Status:* 1/31/2018 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
- HB465**      **PRESCRIBED DRUGS BENEFIT-MEDICAID** (LIPPS S) To provide for the prescribed drugs benefit to be delivered under the Medicaid program through the fee-for-service system.  
*Current Status:* 1/24/2018 - Referred to Committee House Health
- HB491**      **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS-SPECIFIED SERVICES** (EDWARDS J) To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel.  
*Current Status:* 3/20/2018 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
- HB529**      **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (RYAN S) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.  
*Current Status:* 3/30/2018 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days
- HB557**      **ART THERAPY LICENSURE** (ANIELSKI M) To require the licensure of art therapists and to require the State Medical Board to regulate the licensure and practice of art therapists.  
*Current Status:* 4/11/2018 - House Health , (Second Hearing)
- HB583**      **LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING LIMITS** (HENNE M) To limit the occupational license and registration requirements and fees that a political subdivision may impose on state-regulated occupations, to establish a waiver exempting certain persons from paying occupational license or registration fees, and to revise the licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.  
*Current Status:* 4/10/2018 - Referred to Committee House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor

- HB620**      **REGULATION REDUCTION** (ROEGNER K, RIEDEL C) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.  
*Current Status:* 4/26/2018 - Introduced
- HCR5**      **SUPPORT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT** (SYKES E) To urge the Congress of the United States, and in particular the Ohio Congressional delegation, to support the preservation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.  
*Current Status:* 4/11/2018 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
- HCR6**      **REPEAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT** (GOODMAN W, FABER K) To urge congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the affordable care act and to recommend that future federal health care policies restore power to the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight
- HJR4**      **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BONDS** (SCHURING K) To allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program.  
*Current Status:* 3/21/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Twentieth Hearing)
- SB3**      **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.  
*Current Status:* 11/6/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Eff. 2/5/2018
- SB27**      **DEAF HISTORY MONTH DESIGNATION** (BEAGLE B) To designate the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."  
*Current Status:* 10/19/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 1/18/2018
- SB48**      **HEARING IMPAIRED-DRIVING** (WILLIAMS S) To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals and to require the registrar to include an identifying symbol on a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state-issued

identification card of a hearing-impaired individual, if requested.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

**SB59**      **BICYCLE USE-HELMETS (SKINDELL M)** To require bicycle operators and passengers under 18 years of age to wear protective helmets when the bicycle is operated on a roadway and to establish the Bicycle Safety Fund to be used by the Department of Public Safety to assist low-income families in the purchase of bicycle helmets.

*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

**SB79**      **STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE (JORDAN K)** To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

*Current Status:* 4/10/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)

**SB91**      **OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN (SKINDELL M, TAVARES C)** To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

**SB93**      **HEALTH INSURANCE-HEARING AIDS (BROWN E)** To require health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

**SB99**      **MEDICAID EXPANSION-NEW ENROLLMENT (COLEY W)** To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group.

*Current Status:* 3/21/2017 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)

**SB110**      **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS-IDENTIFICATION (TAVARES C)** To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient.

*Current Status:* 1/23/2018 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid,  
(First Hearing)

**SB168**      **MEDICAID EXPANSION (JORDAN K)** To prohibit the Medicaid program from covering the expansion eligibility group and to require aggregate General Revenue Fund appropriations for state agencies to be reduced by specified amounts for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2019.

*Current Status:* 6/28/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**SB174**      **WAGE PROTECTIONS-FAIR ACT (TAVARES C)** To enact the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required (FAIR) Act" and to revise the enforcement of the prohibitions against discrimination in the payment of wages.

*Current Status:* 9/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation,  
Commerce and Workforce

**SB177**      **VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE-IMMUNITY (LEHNER P)** To expand the circumstances in which qualified immunity from civil liability applies with respect to volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons.

*Current Status:* 4/10/2018 - Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing)

**SB255**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS REVIEW (MCCOLLEY R)** To require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

*Current Status:* 4/11/2018 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform,  
(Third Hearing)

**SB266**      **CAPITAL BUDGET (OELSLAGER S)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

*Current Status:* 3/6/2018 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)

**SB293**      **REDUCTION OF AGENCY REGULATIONS (PETERSON B, MCCOLLEY R)** To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.

*Current Status:* 4/23/2018 - Introduced