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**Ohio Speech & Hearing GAC  
Legislative Activities Report  
February 2020**

Ohio's Presidential Primary is set for March 17, 2020, and the deadline to register to vote in the Primary was February 18<sup>th</sup>. Because of the Primary, the Legislature will be taking a three week break from committees and sessions in late February through mid-March. Legislators will be back in their districts during this time for campaigning; it is the perfect opportunity to invite your legislators to your workplace to see the great work that you do in their community!

HB 243 had proponent testimony on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and it was very well received! Audiologists, Dr. Carrie Spangler and Dr. Holle Aungst, provided expert testimony on why amplification is a critical factor in communication. Students, Ellie Warren and Missy Osborne, testified about why their hearing aids are important to them. Nicole White and Dr. Karen Klugo also testified to share their perspectives as parents whose insurance did not cover their children's hearing aids. All of the testimony was very well received.

You will recall that HB 243 mandates that private insurance (non-ERISA) plans cover hearing aids for children up to age 21, The coverage is for hearing aids up to \$2500/aid every 48 months. Right now, many commercial plans consider hearing aids "cosmetic" and therefore do not cover them.

On a separate bill, GAC recently reached out to Representative Brian Baldrige to express our support for HB 436, which creates statewide standards for dyslexia screening and intervention in the schools. The bill has the following provisions:

- Requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with the International Dyslexia Association in Ohio, to establish the Ohio Dyslexia Committee (ODC).
- Requires the Department, in collaboration with the ODC, to develop and update a Dyslexia Guidebook for screening, intervention, and remediation for children with dyslexia or displaying dyslexic characteristics and tendencies.
- Requires the Department to provide structured literacy program professional development for teachers in dyslexia screening and intervention practices.
- Requires the Department, in collaboration with the ODC, to identify “reliable, universal, and evidence-based” screening and intervention measures that evaluate the literacy skills of students enrolled in grades K-5 using a structured literacy program.
- Requires school districts and other public schools (community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools) to administer annual dyslexia screenings.
- Requires each teacher employed by a school district or other public school who provides instruction for students in grades K-1 and those providing special education instruction for students in grades 4-12 to complete a professional development course by the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Requires each school district and all other public schools, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to establish a structured literacy certification process for teachers employed by the district or school providing instruction in grades K-3.
- Requires each district and all other public schools to have at least one teacher per every 200 (1:200) students in grades K-3 certified under the structured literacy certification process by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, 1:150 by the end of the 2023-2024 school year, and 1:100 by the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Requires each district to establish a multidisciplinary team to administer screening and intervention measures and analyze the results of the measures. The team shall include trained and certified personnel and a stakeholder with expertise in the identification, intervention, and remediation of dyslexia.

GAC has asked Rep. Baldrige to consider amending the bill to add a speech-language pathologist to the ODC. We also suggested that the bill list the types of professionals a school may want to include on their multidisciplinary team, and that the list should include a speech-language pathologist. He was inclined to support our amendment; conversations with the International Dyslexia Association in Ohio have also been positive.

GAC continues to watch SB 238, which seeks to license art and music therapists. The bill has still only had one hearing. GAC along with other therapy associations remain opposed to the bill on a scope of practice protection grounds. We also remain interested in SB 246, which addresses license reciprocity. While the bill does not really impact speech and hearing licensees, since our Board already grants reciprocity, we watch the bill for other possible additions relevant

to licensed professions. SB 246 has had several hearings and is likely to pass. Finally, we await the introduction of the capital budget which is expected soon.

Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 133<sup>rd</sup> Ohio General Assembly:

**HB115**      **REGULATOR RESTRICTION REDUCTION** (RIEDEL C, ROEMER B) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulator restrictions and to amend the versions of sections 106.021 and 106.03 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect August 18, 2019, to continue the provision of this act on and after that effective date.

*Current Status:* 4/10/2019 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

**HB129**      **MOTORCYCLE-HEARING PROTECTION** (MCCLAIN R) To permit a person to wear earphones or earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.

*Current Status:* 2/18/2020 - Sent to Governor for Signature

**HB133**      **MILITARY-TEMPORARY LICENSURE** (PERALES R, WEINSTEIN C) To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for military duty.

*Current Status:* 10/2/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)

**HB166**      **OPERATING BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

*Current Status:* 7/18/2019 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Eff. Immediately

**HB243**      **HEARING AIDS COVERAGE** (WEINSTEIN C, RUSSO A) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons under twenty-two years of age.

*Current Status:* 2/4/2020 - House Health, (Second Hearing)

**HB263**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING-CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS** (KOEHLER K) To revise the initial occupational licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.

*Current Status:* 2/5/2020 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House  
Commerce and Labor, (Fifth Hearing)

**HB290**      **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT-HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS** (BOGGS K, CRAWLEY E) To prohibit unlawful sexual contact between health care professionals and patients and to revoke professional licenses for criminal misconduct.

*Current Status:* 6/25/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

**HB292**      **UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE** (SKINDELL M, KENT B) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

*Current Status:* 9/10/2019 - House Health, (First Hearing)

**HB305**      **SCHOOL FINANCING** (CUPP B, PATTERSON J) To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 11/20/2019 - House Finance, (Sixth Hearing)

**HB432**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE RECIPROCITY** (POWELL J, LANG G) To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.

*Current Status:* 1/29/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

**HB436**      **DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN** (BALDRIDGE B) With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

*Current Status:* 2/4/2020 - House Health, (Second Hearing)

**HB452**      **OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS** (WILKIN S, STEPHENS J) To revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations.

*Current Status:* 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

**SB1**      **REDUCE REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS** (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions and to continue the provision of this act on and after August 18, 2019.

*Current Status:* 6/12/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

**SB7**      **TEMP STATE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES-MILITARY** (LEHNER P, HACKETT R) Regarding temporary state occupational licenses for members of the military and their spouses.

*Current Status:* 1/27/2020 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

**SB14**      **DRUG PRICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE** (MAHARATH T) Regarding pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacists, and the disclosure to patients of drug price information.

*Current Status:* 4/3/2019 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

**SB25**      **MEDICAID WORK, EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** (HUFFMAN M) Regarding work and education requirements for the Medicaid program.

*Current Status:* 3/20/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)

**SB29**      **MEDICAID COPAYMENTS** (DOLAN M) Regarding Medicaid copayment requirements.

*Current Status:* 2/19/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)

**SB60**      **ESTABLISH WAIVER-MEDICAID EXPANSION** (BURKE D) To establish a waiver component for the Medicaid expansion eligibility group and to abolish the Healthy Ohio Program.

*Current Status:* 3/6/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**SB166**      **UNLAWFUL SEXUAL CONTACT-HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** (KUNZE S, CRAIG H) To prohibit unlawful sexual contact between health care professionals and patients and to revoke professional licenses for criminal misconduct.

*Current Status:* 10/2/2019 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)

**SB171**      **17-DAY INTERIM BUDGET** (DOLAN M, O'BRIEN S) To enact a 17-day interim budget.

*Current Status:* 6/30/2019 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Effective Immediately

**SB172**      **30 DAY BWC BUDGET** (DOLAN M, O'BRIEN S) To make operating appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the period beginning July 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2019.

*Current Status:* 6/30/2019 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Effective Immediately

**SB238**      **LICENSE ART THERAPISTS** (YUKO K, BRENNER A) To license and regulate art therapists and music therapists.

*Current Status:* 1/29/2020 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)

**SB246**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING** (ROEGNER K, MCCOLLEY R) To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.

*Current Status:* 2/19/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review, (Fifth Hearing)