Legislators in the House and Senate held what was likely their final legislative session in September before recessing in October to return to their districts for the final stretches of the 2020 campaign season. Lawmakers worked to put the final changes on numerous bills dealing with multiple issues including Ohio’s unemployment compensation system, distributing federal CARES Act funding to local governments, and updating Ohio’s liquor laws to help restaurants and bars struggling during the pandemic. There remains much work to be done in what is sure to be a busy lame duck session following the election. Speaker Cupp identified several legislative priorities which still need to be finished before the end of the year including; the ongoing review of multiple HB 6 repeal measures, passing a long sought education-funding reform bill (House Bill 305), and several campaign finance reform bills.

Work continues by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) on its “permanent” telehealth rule. The rule is similar to the emergency rule that has been in place since the start of the pandemic. The rule includes both audiology and speech-language pathology services. GAC provided comments in support of the proposed rule during the public hearing on October 1, 2020. Allowing tele-speech and tele-audiology services in underserved populations has resulted in increased access to care and has reduced the burden of care for families throughout the state. In those comments, GAC suggested to the Ohio Department of Medicaid that it remove language requiring individuals receiving telehealth services for longer than a year to have an in-person visit at least once per year with either their telehealth practitioner or other clinical care provider. This requirement is practically cumbersome as it is unclear how any practitioner will know if the consumer has had their required face to face visit. This in-person visit requirement could also prove to be a barrier to care, especially for those low-income individuals, who are unable to take time off work and have limited access to transportation. In response to the comments received on October 1st, the Department of Medicaid revised the rule to require the practitioner to conduct at least one in-person visit or refer the individual to a practitioner to have
an annual visit. The goal behind this change is to provide practitioners additional clarity surrounding their responsibilities. GAC has asked the Department of Medicaid for its rationale behind the need for this annual face-to-face provision. The rules are currently pending before the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) and need to be completed prior to the expiration of the telehealth emergency rules on November 15th.

Governor Mike DeWine announced the first major overhaul of Ohio’s Medicaid program in 15 years. ODM is seeking to update its managed-care system with a focus on wellness and improving the health of beneficiaries, meeting the needs of children with complex needs, and reducing administrative hurdles for patients and health-care providers. The state recently released a request for bids from managed care plans. The request for applications lays out a timeline in which new plans could be selected early next year, with the new system entirely in place at the start of 2022. Those new managed care plans would be a major part of an overhauled Medicaid infrastructure that also includes a single state pharmacy benefit manager (PBM), a specialized care plan for children with complex needs and centralized services for provider credentialing and fiscal services. The state invited privately operated managed-care organizations to submit applications for new managed care contracts by November 20th. About 90% of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in managed care. Director Maureen Corcoran pointed to five major changes:

- Improving care for children who have complex needs
- An emphasis on the personal care experience of the patient
- Improving wellness and health outcomes
- Giving doctors and other medical providers more time to spend with patients
- Increasing transparency and accountability

The proposal also requires plans to work more comprehensively with community organizations to address social determinants of health and other factors that are not a direct part of clinical care. Included is a requirement that plans contribute a percentage of their annual profit back into the community. The state is divided into three regions; western Ohio, northeast Ohio, and central and southeastern Ohio, and plans will submit bids for each of those regions. In 2012, the state ended up with five plans selected effectively statewide through that process. The competition will be the same this time, with plans selected for each region leading to a different number of total plans if some win for one region and not for others. Ohioans currently covered by Medicaid should not experience any disruptions due to changes in the states program. ODM will release a second managed care application for children with complex behavioral health needs sometime later this fall.

GAC also continues to closely monitor the Ohio Department of Education’s (ODE) operating standard rules. The public comment period ended on July 31, 2020 and concerns were shared regarding the proposed revisions to the workload calculator for related service providers. There are concerns that should these revisions take effect, compliance with the workload
calculator will be less clear. The rules are being reviewed by ODE’s Center for Student Supports leadership and the Office of Exceptional Children. The rules will likely move to the State School Board for consideration later this fall or early next year.

House Bill 436, legislation requiring screenings for dyslexia in children, received its second hearing before the Senate Education Committee. The legislation also requires ODE to establish the Ohio Dyslexia Committee (ODC), which will work with ODE to develop and update a Dyslexia Guidebook for screening, intervention and remediation for children with dyslexia. The bill will likely be undergoing changes, which will include a revision requested by GAC that would add an SLP to the committee. GAC will continue to work with the bill’s advocates and the sponsor, Rep. Brian Baldridge, to pass the bill during lame duck session.

Senate Bill 238, legislation that would license art and music therapists, received its second hearing in the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. The committee received dozens of witness testimony in support of the measure, claiming that licensure of art and music therapists would expand access to therapy services and protect consumers from unqualified or unethical practitioners. A third hearing, which will likely feature opponent testimony, has yet to be scheduled and likely won’t take place until after the November election.

We are monitoring the following legislation in the 133rd General Assembly for you:

**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: 2/21/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 5/22/20*

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; Operating appropriations and tax levy generally effective 7/18/19. Some provisions subject to special effective dates.


HB197  OMNIBUS MEASURES ON CORONAVIRUS (POWELL J, MERRIN D) To continue essential operations of state government and maintain the continuity of the state tax code in response to the declared pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19, to make appropriations, and to declare an emergency.


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:* 9/23/2020 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second 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:** 9/23/2020 - Senate Education, (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


HB573  **COVID-19 - OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE** (SOBECKI L, BOGGS K) To make COVID-19 an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)


HB574  **TRANSFER FUNDS - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND** (MILLER J) To transfer moneys to the Unemployment Compensation Special Administration Fund, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 5/19/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)


HB580  **REQUIRE INSURERS COVER TELEMEDICINE** (LISTON B, PATTON T) To require health plan issuers to cover telemedicine services during a state of emergency, and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 9/23/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB581  ADDRESS COVID-19 CONCERNS (CALLENDER J) To address immediate concerns related to COVID-19.

  Current Status:  5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health

HB606  CIVIL IMMUNITY - COVID-19 TRANSMISSION (GRENDELL D) To grant civil immunity to a person who provides services for essential businesses and operations for injury, death, or loss that was caused by the transmission of COVID-19 during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

  Current Status:  9/14/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

HB617  LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL PROCEDURES - SHUTDOWN ORDERS (JORDAN K) To establish certain time frames and legislative approval procedures as conditions governing the authority of the Department of Health to issue statewide shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, to invalidate existing statewide shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders issued by the Department, and to declare an emergency.

  Current Status:  5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB618  NOW ACT (BECKER J) To limit the authority of the Governor and the Department of Health to issue orders regarding contagious or infectious diseases, to prohibit any order from affecting the conduct of an election, to designate its provisions as the "Need Ohio Working (NOW) Act," and to declare an emergency.

  Current Status:  6/9/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

HB619  ODH PUBLISH INFECTIOUS DISEASE INFORMATION (JORDAN K, HILLYER B) To require the Department of Health to compile and publish certain information on its web site during a state of emergency relating to infectious disease.

  Current Status:  5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
HB620  HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENTS, INTERAGENCY TEAM (CRAWLEY E) To require the Legislative Service Commission to create health impact statements for introduced bills and to create the Health and Equity Interagency Team.

   Current Status:  5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health


HB624  COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION RELEASE (GRENDELL D) To require the reporting and release of certain COVID-19 testing and related information and to declare an emergency

   Current Status:  6/30/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform


HB633  COVID-19 - OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE (BOGGS K) To make COVID-19 contracted by specified types of employees an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

   Current Status:  5/19/2020 - Referred to Committee House Insurance


HB649  ODH - TESTING (STOLTZFUS R, HOOD R) Regarding the authority of the Department of Health and local boards of health to make certain orders and regarding the testing of individuals for certain communicable diseases.

   Current Status:  6/9/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)


HB656  HEARING AID COVERAGE (GALONSKI T) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons under twenty-two years of age and to require the Medicaid program to cover hearing aids.

   Current Status:  5/19/2020 - Introduced

HB671  **PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER LIMITS** (ABRAMS C, STEPHENS J) To establish limits on certain public health orders issued by boards of health and the Department of Health, to prohibit a licensing authority from taking disciplinary action against a licensee for engaging in permitted activities during a pandemic, and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 6/9/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)


HB672  **WORKER PROTECTION ACT** (LELAND D, SOBECKI L) To enact the "Worker Protection Act" to require the Director of Job and Family Services to consider certain factors related to COVID-19 when determining, for purposes of unemployment benefit eligibility, whether an individual had just cause to quit work or refuse employment and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 5/27/2020 - Referred to Committee House Insurance


HB673  **BUSINESS OPERATION, EDUCATION COMPLETION** (ROEMER B) Regarding the operation of businesses, practice of certain professions, and completion of education as it relates to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 6/24/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review


HB676  **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY APPEAL BOARDS** (JORDAN K) To create twelve regional State and Local Government Accountability Appeal Boards and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 6/3/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)


HB679  **TELEHEALTH SERVICE REQUIREMENTS** (FRAIZER M, HOLMES A) To establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 9/23/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions

HB691  MEDICAID MANAGED CARE - PROMPT PAY (MANCHESTER S, PLUMMER P) To amend the prompt pay requirements for providers and third-party payers and to include Medicaid managed care organizations.

  Current Status:  9/23/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB737  MODIFY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW (MANNING G, MIRANDA J) To modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding independent expenditures and political action committees.

  Current Status:  8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB739  ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT (SWEENEY B, RUSSO A) To modify the campaign finance law, to name this act the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act, and to amend the versions of sections of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2021, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date.

  Current Status:  8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB762  MODIFY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS (GRENDELL D, FRAIZER M) To modify the campaign finance law and to declare an emergency.

  Current Status:  9/21/2020 - Introduced

HB763  TERMINATE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY (GRENDELL D, STOLTZFUS R) To terminate the COVID-19 state of emergency in Ohio and to declare an emergency.

  Current Status:  9/23/2020 - Introduced
HB767  CHRONIC DISEASE ABSENCES EXCUSE FOR INTERVENTION  (PERALES R) To specify that a child's absence due to a chronic medical condition that is acknowledged by the child's individualized education program or 504 plan is a medical excuse for purposes of absence intervention requirements.

  Current Status:  9/30/2020 - Introduced

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.


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. 4/28/2020

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


SB102 DYSEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM (BRENNER A, LEHNER P) To establish the Dyslexia Screening Program for school districts and other public schools.

   Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)


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


SB200  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT-DYSLEXIA** (LEHNER P, BRENNER A) With regard to professional development for screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

**Current Status:** 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED,** Senate Education, (First Hearing)


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

**Current Status:** 9/23/2020 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second Hearing)

**State Bill Page:** [https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-238](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-238)

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:** 7/21/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review, (Sixth Hearing)


SB294  
**ABSENTEE VOTING** (HUFFMAN M) To extend absent voting by mail for the March 17, 2020, primary election to April 28, 2020, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

SB305  **TELEMEDICINE DURING EMERGENCY** (CRAIG H) To require health plan issuers to cover telemedicine services during a state of emergency and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 5/27/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)


SB308  **CIVIL LIABILITY-EMERGENCY SERVICES** (HUFFMAN M) To revise the law governing immunity from civil liability and professional discipline for health care providers during disasters or emergencies, to provide qualified civil immunity to service providers providing services during and after a government-declared disaster, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Civil Justice


SB311  **RESCIND DIRECTOR OF HEALTH ORDERS** (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To rescind certain orders of the Director of Health regarding COVID-19, to require the approval of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review for Department of Health orders to be effective for more than fourteen days, to require statewide Department of Health orders to include the Governor's signature, to modify the Department's rulemaking authority, to allow in-person high school graduation ceremonies, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 9/23/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 20-12


SB314  **BUSINESS RELOCATIONS** (BRENNER A) To prohibit state agencies from charging a fee to professional license holders in relation to a business relocation during the COVID-19 declared state of emergency and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 5/20/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review

SB347  **CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW** (MANNING N) To modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding independent expenditures and political action committees.

**Current Status:** 9/16/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)


SB348  **LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH** (SCHAFFER T, ROEGNER K) To prohibit local boards of health from using certain threatening words in notifications to the public, to allow local boards of health to reject Department of Health orders during an emergency, to allow health care professionals who serve on a board of health to receive continuing education credit, and to change the makeup of local boards of health.

**Current Status:** 9/1/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid


SB349  **CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW** (FEDOR T) To modify the campaign finance law, to name this act the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act.

**Current Status:** 9/1/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform


SCR13  **PROHIBIT GOVERNMENT-EXCEED AUTHORITY** (JOHNSON T) To resolve that no branch of government, be it executive, legislative, or judicial, nor any subordinate department, agency, or entity thereof, may take or otherwise promulgate actions that exceed its authority to do so as expressly granted under the Ohio Constitution or United States Constitution.

**Current Status:** 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

URGE CONGRESS-DISCLOSE POLITICAL DONORS (FEDOR T) To urge Congress to pass legislation requiring corporations and labor organizations that make political expenditures to disclose the identities of their donors.

Current Status: 9/22/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)