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**Ohio Speech and Hearing GAC
Legislative Activities Report
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The Ohio House recently put their mark on the state's \$75 billion two-year operating budget (HB 110). The House Finance Committee accepted a substitute version of the bill, which called for a 2% across-the-board income tax cut, which House Republicans suggest will save Ohioans approximately \$380 million over the biennium. The House also included a massive overhaul of Ohio's school funding formula. The "Fair School Funding Plan" was developed by now-Speaker Bob Cupp and was passed by the House last session but never gained traction in the Senate. The substitute version of HB 110 would fold funding for the governor's Student Wellness and Success program into the school funding proposal. This program was developed by Governor DeWine last session and is designed to provide wraparound services to students. The governor made a significant investment in the program, calling for \$500 million in FY 2022 and \$600 million in FY 2023. The school funding plan proposed by the House would be phased-in over the next six years. The budget also includes \$155 million in COVID-19 relief aid for restaurants, the lodging industry and entertainment venues, and new businesses. Fortunately, the House left the "Mothers and Children Safety Net Services" fund unchanged from the executive version of the bill, providing \$200,000 per year to be used to assist families with hearing impaired children under 21-years of age. The House is expected to accept another round of changes before voting on the measure and sending it to the Senate for further deliberation. HB 110 must be passed and signed by the governor by July 1st.

A plan (HB 122) to codify the expansion of telehealth services implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic cleared the House after a handful of changes were made by the House Insurance Committee. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Mark Fraizer, supported a change that would require coverage for asynchronous communication to be negotiated between the provider and a health plan. Under the amendment, an insurer would not be required to cover asynchronous communication that differs from coverage described in the plan. HB 122 received unanimous support in the House and now heads to the Senate for further debate.

A pair of bipartisan legislators have introduced HB 198, or “Madeline’s Law,” which would expand health insurance coverage to include hearing aids for children up to the age of 21. Named after a Northeast Ohio girl whose parents brought the issue to lawmakers, the bill would require coverage of up to \$2,500 per hearing aid every 48 months. Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) and Rep. Susan Manchester (R-Waynefield), the bill’s sponsors, said in a press conference, that hearing aids are currently classified as “cosmetic devices” by insurers. They argue that helping children hear helps their development and language skills, which impact their education and job prospects. The sponsors point to data suggesting that each child with hearing loss costs the state \$400,000 in special education expenses by the time he or she graduates high school. Advocates participating in the press conference said that while the state mandates screening of babies for hearing loss, whether a child receives treatment for hearing loss is currently based on a family’s income. “Diagnosing deafness and failing to provide an appropriate intervention is morally and ethically unacceptable,” Dr. Carrie Spangler, an educational audiologist at the Summit Educational Service Center said during the press conference.

Patients in need of speech and hearing services will gain better access to care if legislation (HB 252) is passed that would enter Ohio in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). The ASLP-IC would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists licensed in one state to practice in other states that enter the compact. The ASLP-IC has been adopted by 10 states, which makes the compact operational. Proponents suggest that this will increase access to care by allowing providers to offer telehealth services in other states, which can be helpful to patients, who will be able to receive the same telehealth services should they move to a different state. It will also free audiologists and speech-language pathologists from burdensome, duplicative, and expensive licensure requirements in multiple states. Before the compact goes into effect, a ASLP-IC Commission will be created to serve as the compact’s governing body, which will likely begin meeting in the next few months and will create rules and bylaws by the end of the year. Rep. Andrea White (R-Kettering) and Rep. Phil Plummer (R-Dayton), the sponsors of the bill, are working to expedite the committee hearing process, with the hope that Ohio will pass HB 252 in time to allow Ohio to participate in the commission.

U.S. Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) announced plans this month to leave his seat to lead the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Stivers, who has served in the U.S. House since 2011, will officially resign on May 16th. Rep. Stivers, who represents the portions of central and southern Ohio that make up Ohio's 15th Congressional District, served as chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 2016 to 2018. The open seat will attract the attention of numerous sitting legislators and could lead to changes in the Ohio legislator should a state legislator be selected to fill the seat. "It has been my honor and privilege to serve the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District," Rep. Stivers said in a statement. "Throughout my career in public service I've worked to promote policies that drive our economy forward, get folks to

work, and put our country's fiscal house in order. That is why I am looking forward to this new opportunity with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, where I can continue my efforts to support free enterprise and economic growth here in Ohio."

Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 134th Ohio General Assembly:

HB1 CREATE NEW SCHOOL FINANCING SYSTEM (CALLENDER J, SWEENEY B) To create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Current Status: 3/1/2021 - House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Fourth Hearing)

HB6 MODIFY LAWS GOVERNING CERTAIN PROFESSIONS DUE TO COVID-19 (ROEMER B) To amend Section 30 of H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly to modify the laws governing certain health professionals and educator preparation programs due to COVID-19 and other circumstances and to modify the electric utility laws regarding energy efficiency programs; to amend the version of section 4729.92 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 9, 2021, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date; and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

HB13 MODIFY THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW (GRENDALL D, FRAIZER M) To modify the campaign finance law and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 4/15/2021 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)

HB60 PERMIT MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR AUTISM (BRENT J, SEITZ B) To authorize the use of medical marijuana for autism spectrum disorder.

Current Status: 3/23/2021 - House Health, (Second Hearing)

HB90 OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNOR'S AND HEALTH ORDERS (WIGGAM S, EDWARDS J) To establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders, certain public health orders, and emergency rules, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

Current Status: 2/24/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)

HB103 REGARDS ADOPTION/DURATION EMERGENCY RULES (MERRIN D) Regarding the adoption and duration of emergency administrative rules.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

HB110 OPERATING BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

Current Status: 4/22/2021 - Senate Health, (Third Hearing)

HB122 TELEHEALTH SERVICES (FRAIZER M, HOLMES A) To establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services.

Current Status: 4/15/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 93-0

HB125 HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS/ BENEFITS (CROSSMAN J, LIGHTBODY M) Regarding health insurance premiums and benefits.

Current Status: 2/24/2021 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB160 HEALTH CARE COST ESTIMATES (HOLMES A) Regarding the provision of health care cost estimates.

Current Status: 3/10/2021 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB198 REQUIRE COVERAGE OF HEARING AIDS FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE (RUSSO A, MANCHESTER S) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons twenty-one years of age and younger and to designate these changes Madeline's Law.

Current Status: 3/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Health

HB202 VOID ORDERS REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS (POWELL J) To void the order of the Interim Director of Health requiring the use of facial coverings throughout the state and prohibit the Governor or other administrative department heads from requiring the use of facial coverings without approval by the General Assembly.

Current Status: 4/22/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)

HB203 REQUIRE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE IF EXPERIENCED IN OTHER STATE (POWELL J) 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 and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date.

Current Status: 4/21/2021 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

HB252 AUDIOLOGY/SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY INTERSTATE COMPACT (WHITE A, PLUMMER P) To enter into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

Current Status: 4/14/2021 - Referred to Committee House Health

SB3 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K) To enter into the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 4/20/2021 - House Health, (First Hearing)

SB5 PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K, BLESSING III L) To enter into the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 3/31/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

SB6 MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K, HUFFMAN S) To enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 3/17/2021 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Health, (Fourth Hearing)

SB7 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K) To enter into the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 3/31/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

SB9 REDUCE REGULATIONS (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions in their administrative rules.

Current Status: 3/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight

SB22 LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT-PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS (JOHNSON T, MCCOLLEY R) To establish legislative oversight of orders issued by the executive branch, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Consideration of Governor's Veto; House Overrides Veto, Vote 62-35

SB60 MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY-INFORMED CONSENT (SCHAFFER T) To require Medicaid applicants to certify that they have been notified about the Medicaid estate recovery program.

Current Status: 2/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health

SB131 LICENSURE RECIPROCITY (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 and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date.

Current Status: 3/17/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Workforce and Higher Education

