When lawmakers return to session this fall, they will likely take up legislation expanding the use of telehealth services, which were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 122 is pending in the Ohio Senate after receiving unanimous support in the House. HB 122, sponsored by Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Adam Holmes (R-Nashport), expands the types of providers who may bill for telehealth services.
The Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition (OSHGAC), of which OSLHA is an active member, worked with the bill’s sponsors to ensure audiology and speech-language pathology services were covered under the bill and provided proponent testimony. “The Telemedicine Expansion Act is essential as we begin to reopen the state following the COVID-19 pandemic,” Rep. Fraizer said shortly after the House passed the bill. The bill’s passage becomes more pressing as the state of emergency order was lifted in June.

In preparation for this legislation to be presented and further discussed, the Dayton Daily News recently published an article titled "Ohio Weighs Whether to Make Pandemic Telehealth Rules Permanent", which explores various opinions on this legislation from members of the local medical community.

**ADOPTED LEGISLATION**

**HB244 : AMENDED SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE REGARDING TECHNOLOGY-BASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR, AND THE ENROLLMENT OF, MILITARY CHILDREN; REGARDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS & STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND PROHIBITIONS ON MANDATORY VACCINATIONS & DISCRIMINATION; AND REGARDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OVER MATTERS OF QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION.**

**EFF. OCT 13, 2021**
HB198 (Madeline’s Law): Would expand health insurance coverage to include set coverage for hearing aids for children up to the age of 21. Continued discussion on this legislation is expected to resume when the Legislature returns to the statehouse this Fall.

HB359 & SB206: Would license and regulate art therapists and music therapists. This legislation is expected to undergo further discussion when the Legislature resumes this Fall.

Notice of Public Meeting: Ohio Dyslexia Committee to Meet Aug. 31

The Ohio Dyslexia Committee will meet Aug. 31 at 8:45 a.m. at the Ohio Department of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus.

Click here for the agenda. Public participation will be welcome during the time allotted on the agenda (3:30-4:00 pm).

For general questions about the meeting, contact dyslexia@education.ohio.gov.