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**Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association
Legislative Activities Report
August 2009**

House Bill 1, the state biennial budget has been passed and signed by the Governor. After passage of three interim budgets the General Assembly and the Governor came to terms on the video lottery terminal at racetracks issue. The final version of the budget did have to account for deep losses of state revenue from lagging tax collections. A part of the final package adopted in the budget was nearly \$2.4 billion in cuts to programs and state agencies. Of interest and deep impact to the ODHA were reductions in community provider rates, which include adult dental Medicaid rates and noted reductions in dental services to the uninsured. In the final analysis of the budget bill, provider rates were cut 3% and the cuts to the Access to Dental Care line items were over 50%. These reductions could have an impact on the implementation of House Bill 190 because the funding stream for paying for services would be severely strained.

The General Assembly is currently on recess and will reconvene for a majority of September, October and brief periods of November and December. It is anticipated that a heavy January through June 2010 is expected. The scheduled committee hearing and session schedule for this fall will be more than adequate time to allow the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee time to consider and pass House Bill 190, which seeks to create a Public Oral Health Supervision Permit for hygienists and dentists to allow services to be provided in public health "facilities" outside of the dental office. Additionally, the bill contains the CE requirement increase from 12 to 24 hours over the biennium of a licensee's registration period to begin during the 2010-2011 registration cycle that ODHA has been seeking for two years. One of the items of consideration for the Senate process on House Bill are changes to local anesthesia (LA) reciprocity language to allow hygienists with local anesthesia training and administration abilities who move to Ohio to maintain their ability to serve in that capacity without having to completely start fresh in LA classes. ODHA was successful in gaining the support of the Ohio State Dental Board on this amendment and is awaiting a response from the ODA Executive Committee on this issue. Additionally, it remains unclear as to whether or not there will be an effort by Public Health Dentistry to impact the bill following the

opposition testimony provided during the House consideration.

Also of interest to the ODHA is a bill that has been brought forward and is under review by the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and the Government Relations Committee. House Bill 215 seeks to modify the law governing investigations and hearings conducted by the State Dental Board. The bill deals with both dentists and hygienists and has drawn the opposition of the Ohio State Dental Board. While hygienists typically do not have problems with hearings and investigations, they are included in actions sought as possible “protections” against perceived investigation abuse by the Board. The bill was brought by an independent entity and at this point is under review by both the ODA and the ODHA. The bill also contains a provision that has been referred to as a licensure “safe harbor” provision. The safe harbor provision essentially states that if a licensee (dentist/hygienist) does not renew his or her license in a timely manner, a professional has until June of the first six months of the licensing period to renew the license without disciplinary action; however, it comes with a steep fine assessment. The bill is pending in the House Health Committee and will likely be taken up after the legislative recess.

HB1 **BIENNIAL BUDGET (SYKES, V)** To make appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011 for the operation of state programs.

- PHC Rules, Procedures and Fees Radiation Sources
- Radiation Control Program Definitions
- Central Services Agency—Board Consolidation
- Dental Board Budget
- Dental Health Shortage Areas
- Dental Loan Repayment Program
- DOH Budget

Current Status: 7/17/2009 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**
eff. 7/17/09 appropriations
other sections subject to referendum 10/16/09

HB60 **SCHOOL NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS (PILLICH, C)** To establish nutritional standards for food and beverages sold in vending machines in public schools,

Current Status: 6/24/2009
SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED
House Health Committee
(Second Hearing)

- HB68** **HEALTHY FARMS/HEALTHY SCHOOLS** (DODD, D) To establish the healthy farms and healthy schools grant program for the purpose of providing grants to schools to establish nutrition and agricultural education programs for kindergarteners.
Current Status: 6/3/2009
Referred to Senate Education Committee
- HB84** **INMATE HEALTH SCREENINGS** (BOYD, B) To require health-trained personnel to perform a medical, dental, and mental health screening on each inmate upon arrival at a jail, to establish procedures that health-trained personnel must follow if an inmate is taking xanax, ativan, valium, or any other benzodiazepine, and to provide that the sheriff ensure that health-trained personnel responsible for medical, dental, and mental health screening be trained as to symptoms and consequences of withdrawal from addictive drugs.
Current Status: 7/1/2009
House Criminal Justice Committee
(Second Hearing)
- HB127** **PROFESSIONAL LICENSES** (WILLIAMS, S) To revise the laws governing issuance of certain professional licenses.
Current Status: 5/6/2009
House State Government Committee
(First Hearing)
- HB190** **DENTAL PROCEDURES** (FENDE, L) To modify certain licensing procedures for dentists and dental hygienists and to establish the Public Oral Health Supervision Program for the provision of dental hygiene services.
Current Status: 6/29/2009
Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
- HB215** **STATE DENTAL BOARD** (LETSON, T) To modify the law governing investigations and hearings conducted by the State Dental Board.
Current Status: 6/24/2009
House Health Committee
(Second Hearing)
- HB240** **MEDICAID PROGRAM** (SEARS, B) To modify the Medicaid program.
Current Status: 6/24/2009
Referred to House Health Committee

- SB1** **BUILDING OHIO JOBS PART II** (HUGHES, J) To implement the additional debt authority for conservation and revitalization programs provided by Section 2q of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution, to authorize the issuance of that debt, to make new appropriations for the purpose of continuing programs established by Am. Sub. H.B. 554 of the 127th General Assembly, the Bipartisan Job Stimulus Act, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/5/2009
Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee
- SB2** **FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** (CAREY, JR., J) To provide for the distribution of moneys received by the state from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by making appropriations and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/18/2009
Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee
- SB34** **HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS** (MILLER, D) To create a health insurance program that allows municipal corporations, small employers, and nonprofit corporations or associations to purchase for their employees the same policies provided to state employees.
Current Status: 3/31/2009
Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee
(First Hearing)
- SB52** **EXECUTIVE BRANCH-STATE GOVERNMENT** (GRENDALL, T) To reorganize the executive branch of state government.
Current Status: 5/26/2009
Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
(Third Hearing)
- SB59** **HEALTHY STUDENTS ACT** (FEDOR, T) To enact the "Healthy Students Act" to establish standards for K-12 health education in public schools and to create the Office of Healthy Schools within the Department of Education.
Current Status: 3/24/2009
Senate Education Committee
(First Hearing)
- SB136** **INSURANCE AND MEDICAID COVERAGE** (MILLER, R) Regarding insurance and Medicaid coverage of telemedicine services.
Current Status: 6/17/2009
Referred to Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee

