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

The Ohio House has concluded their work on the state biennial budget and the Senate is now in the midst of their considerations. They will be working until the early part of June in their deliberations. However, there was a stunning announcement this week that may delay their action or cause them to significantly reduce the size of the state budget bill in its current form. It was announced that in the current fiscal year that ends June 30th that the state will be facing a deficit of \$322 million and estimates predict that the deficit could reach as high as \$900 million. These numbers will obviously have an impact on the remainder of the budget process and how the General Assembly will deal with the deficits. Unlike the federal government, Ohio is not constitutionally permitted to operate in deficit spending and must have a balanced budget. There is an effort by the republicans in the General Assembly to pass a one year budget to allow markets and the economy to turn around and allow for better fiscal forecasting. However, there is great resistance to the suggestions.

Of new interest in the budget is the addition in the House Finance Committee of a \$300,000 earmark of Help Me Grow funds to be provided to the Ohio State University College of Dentistry for a dental bus program.

We are also continuing the developments on the ODHA's long sought access to care bill. The leadership of ODHA met with the ODA leadership on April 17th to discuss points of agreement, compromise and discussion. We are happy to report that we have come to an agreement in concept with the Dental Association on a piece of legislation! The bill would seek to create a public oral health permit for both dentists and hygienists to be able to practice in settings outside the dental office. A significant list of locations to practice was included and they target the mainly underserved locations that we have been advocating to reach. The permits being proposed are a new concept in Ohio, but the language and idea are similar to the utilization in the State of Kansas. Services to patients in settings outside the dental office are being compared to the services provided to patients in the office while under general supervision. There are also efforts to ensure that on-going recare is not provided until a clinical evaluation can be performed by the

supervising dentist. Also among the provisions of the draft bill is an increase of continuing education units from 12 to 24 units per two-year licensing cycle for all dental hygienists. A more thorough description of the bill will be provided once the final draft is completed.

We anticipate that a bill will be introduced in the coming weeks and may have action taken on it before the General Assembly adjourns for its summer 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.

Current Status: 5/6/2009

Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee
(Tenth Hearing)

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

Current Status: 3/5/2009

Referred to House Health Committee

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: 5/6/2009

PASSED BY HOUSE

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: 4/29/2009

House Criminal Justice Committee
(First 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)
- 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 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 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: 5/5/2009
Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
(Second 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)

