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FISCAL YEARS 2020/2021 BUDGET

TESTIMONY OF HARRY KAMDAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OHIO STATE DENTAL BOARD

BEFORE THE

SENATE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND MEDICAID

April 30, 2019

Chairman Hackett, Ranking Member Thomas and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid, my name is Harry Kamdar and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio State Dental Board. It is an honor and privilege to be in front of you to present the Dental Board's budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Dental Board's vision is "Healthy Ohioans through excellence in dentistry" and this budget will help support this vision. Below is a brief explanation on the Dental Board's sources of revenues and expenditures.

A. Revenues

The Dental Board's budget is supported by only one source of revenue and that is from fees paid by those seeking licenses, certificates, and registrations. Payments are made on a biennial basis for license renewals spanning the biennium. Dentists and Hygienists make up the upper-tier of dental teams and they renew in even-numbered fiscal years. Dental Assistant Radiographers and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDA) renew in odd-numbered fiscal years. Due to the

large difference in the fees for each type of license, revenues in even-numbered fiscal years are significantly higher than in odd-numbered fiscal years. This results in a budget surplus in even-numbered fiscal years and a budget deficit in odd-numbered fiscal years. However, in aggregate over the biennium, the surplus cancels out the deficit.

The fees collected also include pass-through funds which are collected by the Dental Board and then transferred to the Ohio Department of Health, which administers both the Dental Loan Repayment Program and Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program.

B. Expenditures

This budget will help support expenditures for the following three service lines:

- (1) **Licensing service line** — services are rendered through the state's relatively new eLicensing system. The Board issues about 36,000 licenses, certificates and registrations for dentists, hygienists and other dental team members. All transactions are now paperless. As stated in the previous section, dentists and hygienists renew in even-number fiscal years and other dental team member renew in odd-numbered fiscal years.

- (2) **Education service line** — services rendered fall into the following three categories:
 - a. Initial education — The Board verifies initial education through the initial application process. All applicants must provide proof that they satisfied the education requirement(s) set forth in rule or statute. The Board relies on universities, residency programs and other education providers to provide appropriate training and education to all applicants.

 - b. Continuing education — Dentists, hygienists and dental x-ray machine operators ("radiographers") are required to complete continuing education prior to renewing their licenses and registrations. The Board believes that continuing education is

essential to ensure that all members of the dental team remain current in the everchanging field of dentistry and to provide the highest quality of care to the public.

- c. Remedial education —Through a combined effort of the Board's Education Committee and the Law and Rules Review Committee, has defined remedial education as a prescribed educational intervention that is designed to restore an identified practice deficiency of a licensee to conformity with the generally accepted standards of the profession. Remediation includes, but is not limited to, successful demonstration by the licensee that the learned knowledge and skills have been incorporated into the licensee's practice.

- (3) **Enforcement service line** — services include conducting investigations of dental professionals that have allegedly violated the Dental Practice Act or the promulgated rules of the Dental Board, including Ohio's Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) requirements. As part of the investigative process, the Board utilizes licensed dentist experts who provide an independent review and recommendation. Once the investigation is complete, if formal disciplinary action is taken, the Board utilizes the services of attorney hearing officers to preside over administrative disciplinary hearings. The Board has created an early-intervention remedial education program which works confidentially with education providers and licensees to correct practice deficiencies identified in course of the investigatory process.

2. KEY PRIORITIES

This budget will help support key priorities identified through the Dental Board's strategic planning process. Some of these priorities are summarized as follows:

- Continue to elevate awareness amongst dentists of the opioid epidemic and facilitate educational opportunities through healthcare partners so as to reduce overprescribing of controlled substances.
- Work with dentists to protect older teens and young Ohioans oral health through prevention and early intervention strategies. This would include sharing educational information on the oral health hazards of using tobacco products especially newer forms of consumption such as vaping through e-cigarettes and other such devices.

3. MAJOR BUDGETARY IMPACT ITEMS

A. Licensing system

The State transitioned from an antiquated licensing system that was prone to unpredictable and expensive breakdowns to a new system called eLicense. The apportioned cost for the Board was approximately \$9,500 per year for the old system and is anticipated to be approximately \$101,235 in FY 20 and \$108,109 in FY 21 for the new system. This translates in an increase of approximately \$200,000 over the biennium.

B. Banking fees

Along with the transition to the new eLicense system which leverages a paperless solution, payments for license applications and renewals are now made electronically by licensees. Accordingly, hardcopy checks are no longer accepted for payments. There is a banking fee charged to the Board for each electronic transaction pertaining to license applications and renewals. This amount is projected to be approximately \$100,000 over the biennium.

C. Payroll

The Board is not expanding its table of organization. This budget request is for the current number of authorized positions consisting of 14 staff positions and 13 Board member positions. Salary increases are projected at 2.75% in FY 20 and 3.0% in FY 21. Fringe benefits are projected to increase by 10% each year. Accordingly, the projected total payroll costs are \$1,460,000 in FY 20 and \$1,535,000 in FY 21. This translates in an increase of approximately \$200,000 over the biennium.

4. CONCLUSION

In closing, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid, the Dental Board is fully committed to excellence in customer service and the utmost professionalism in responding to the needs of the public we serve and the professionals we regulate.