



Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid  
Ohio Vision Professionals Board  
H.B. 166: SFY 2020-2021 Operating Budget  
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Good morning, Chair Hackett, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid. I truly appreciate the opportunity to provide an overview of the Ohio Vision Professionals Board (VPB) and our budget recommendations.

As you may recall, House Bill 49 of the 132nd General Assembly consolidated the State Board of Optometry and the Optical Dispensers Board into the Ohio Vision Professionals Board in January of 2018, to achieve administrative efficiencies and to align state programs and regulatory functions. The VPB is the regulatory body for the licensing and registering of nearly 7,000 qualified optometrists, opticians, ocularists and apprentices. VPB ensures timely and appropriate licensure and license renewals. VPB monitors compliance with continuing education requirements, approves provider program relevance to practice in Ohio and educates the licensees on the laws and rules which govern licensees and consumers on services provided by the licensees. The Board is comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor which include optometrists, opticians, an ocularist and a public member.

Our mission of the Ohio Vision Professionals Board is to provide statewide leadership in protecting and serving Ohioans by effectively and efficiently regulating the practices of optometrists, opticians, ocularists and apprentices. VPB has standards of conduct for our licensees / registrants and internally handles all the investigations of all complaints against our licensed professionals for compliance with the applicable rules and regulations. We strive to be a national leader for the establishment of professional practice standards and licensure of those professions. Our full-time staff is small, but mighty, with an executive director, an investigator, and two administrative personnel.

The budget funding for fiscal year 2020 is nearly \$641,000, which is a 1.5% decrease from fiscal year 2019. Funding for fiscal year 2021 is \$654,000, for a total biennium budget of nearly \$1.3 million. The Ohio **Vision Professionals Board is self-supported through revenue generated from license applications and renewal fees.** The **VPB does not receive any funds from the State's General Revenue Fund.** As required, by the Ohio Revised Code ORC 4734.54, all receipts of the VPB are deposited into the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund (4K90). The VPB is one of 19 boards that deposit into the 4K90 fund.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to present the Ohio Vision Professionals Board's executive budget proposal to you today. The VPB has an enormous responsibility to act in the best interest in protecting and serving Ohioans with educated and ethical eye care professionals with the highest levels of accountability. The VPB respectfully requests your support with an open and collaborative process with budget deliberations. I thank the committee for their time and attention and welcome your questions and comments.