

FISCAL YEARS 2024/2025 BUDGET

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

BEFORE THE OHIO SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

APRIL 25, 2023

Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and distinguished members of the Senate Health Committee, 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 2024 and 2025.

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 eLicense system. The Board serves about 40,000 dentists, hygienists and other dental team members. All transactions are done electronically. As stated in the previous section, dentists and dental hygienists renew in even-numbered fiscal years (i.e. FY 22, FY 24, etc.) and other dental team members renew in odd-numbered fiscal years (i.e. FY 21, FY 23, etc).

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

 - b. Continuing education — Dentists, dental 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 our Education Committee and the Law and Rules Review Committee, the Board has defined remedial education as a prescribed educational intervention. It is designed to restore an identified practice deficiency of a licensee to conform 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. 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 warranted, the Board utilizes the services of hearing officers to deliberate over administrative disciplinary hearings.

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 below:

- While the COVID-19 pandemic took center-stage in the previous biennium, the opioid epidemic remains a key priority for the Dental Board as we move forward. While tremendous progress has been made by dentists, we will continue to elevate awareness of the opioid epidemic. Education opportunities through our stakeholders and healthcare partners will be pursued to help further reduce overprescribing of controlled substances.

- Review, research and implement alternative pathways to licensure with a focus on non-patient based clinical examinations to the extent possible.
- Enforcement and education of infection control practices in dental offices and dental clinics.

3. CONCLUSION

In closing, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Senate Health Committee, 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.