



Testimony on the Clinical Teaching Appropriation

Dr. Greg Toussaint, Senior Associate Dean, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee

June 4, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, on behalf of Wright State University, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Clinical Teaching appropriation, a critical budgetary line item that supports the delivery of clinical experiences for our future physicians at the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

My name is Dr. Greg Toussaint. I am a pediatrician by training and retired Colonel from the United State Air Force. I have been with the Boonshoft School of Medicine since 2005 and have served in a number of roles including recently as interim dean for not quite two years. Today, I am our Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the School of Medicine.

The Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University is a vital contributor to Ohio's physician workforce and a nationally respected leader in community-based medical education. Nearly 75% of our entering medical students are Ohio residents. We achieve this number because as a regional workforce development university, we focus on educating Ohioans. Equally as important, we consistently place over 50% of our graduates into residency programs within the state of Ohio. These two factors, student residency and residency training placement, are the most reliable predictors of where a physician will ultimately practice. In addition, Wright State is proud to be among the top ranked medical schools in Ohio for producing physicians who enter and then practice in primary care fields, who represent the front line of care and are in especially high demand across both rural and underserved urban communities throughout the state.

As the Committee is aware, the Clinical Teaching appropriation was established by the Ohio General Assembly in the early 1980s with a clear and specific purpose: to support the costs associated with the clinical education of third and fourth-year medical students. The Clinical Teaching appropriation is an important component of Ohio's overall investment in medical education provided by your state universities.

The legislative intent for this appropriation was to offset instructional costs associated with teaching in a clinical environment. The intent was reaffirmed in the 1991 Legislative Office of Education Oversight report that stated the Clinical Teaching appropriation is “intended to support the clinical educational costs that are an essential part of medical education.”

As required by the original legislation, each public medical school provides ODHE with a report on the residency placement of their graduating medical students. We are pointing that out as some colleagues have tried to frame the subsidy to be applicable to all clinical experiences. The fact remains that only schools of medicine – both allopathic and osteopathic – are required to offer their students a residency experience as a part of their accredited learning. Extrapolating further, the original legislation would not have used a “residency” reporting requirement if the Authors intended the appropriation to cover all clinical experiences. It is the opinion of Wright State University the State designed the clinical teaching appropriation to support clinical experiences within public schools of medicine and specific to medical residency placement. It was not intended to support other allied health-related programs.

Having said that, Wright State University, like many of our peer institutions, provides students in other allied health fields with learning opportunities in clinical settings. Should the Legislature wish to consider an increase in the appropriation to help offset the cost of that instruction you would not find us opposed (that plug was to meant to be humorous members of the Committee!)

Wright State University utilizes the appropriation exclusively for the purpose the legislature originally intended -- to place and support our MD students in clinical rotations at sites across Ohio. These placements are essential and are a critical part of Ohio’s physician workforce educational system.

The Clinical Teaching appropriation has remained unchanged since its inception with the exception of receiving an increase when the overall state budget is increased on a percentage basis. Looking at the specific appropriations included in the original legislation, one is left to correlate those to the number of students (or headcount) of each of the participating public schools of medicine at that time. All of our enrollments have grown since that time, yet the distribution methodology of these funds has not kept pace with those enrollment changes. As a result, today's distribution is deeply imbalanced and schools like Wright State, NEOMED, and Ohio University, which collectively train a growing share of Ohio’s medical students, receive disproportionately less funding than we originally received based upon headcount.

Wright State University is not here today seeking an increase in the overall Clinical Teaching appropriation. We are here supporting more clarity in the distribution model and are supportive of Representative Young’s proposal. That proposal ensures the Clinical Teaching funding is distributed on a headcount basis. That is not new precedent but rather similar to that of the Med

Model 2 funding in the State Share of Instruction. The proposal concurrently incentivizes Ohio's public medical schools to attract and retain physician talent in the State of Ohio.

This proposed formula change will directly align the Clinical Teaching appropriation with Ohio's strategic interest in retaining physicians, thus strengthening the availability of accessible care in the State of Ohio. It will also bring balance - ensuring each university's appropriation is proportional to the number of medical students it educates, something this formula has failed to do for over 40 years.

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and members of the Ohio House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, to conclude, Wright State University supports and urges passage of the proposal to reform the Clinical Teaching Subsidy formula. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.