



INVITED TESTIMONY ON CLINICAL TEACHING SUPPORT

House Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Carol Bradford, MD, MS, FACS

Dean, College of Medicine

Vice President for Health Sciences, Wexner Medical Center

Leslie H. and Abigail S. Wexner Dean's Chair in Medicine

Professor of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery

June 4, 2025

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Brown Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee, my name is Dr. Carol Bradford, and I serve as Dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine and as Vice President of Health Sciences at the The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Let me first begin by thanking Chairman Young for the opportunity to discuss the important role that state funding plays in helping Ohio State, along with our peer institutions, to deliver quality clinical teaching for medical and allied health students in programs such as nursing. One of the challenges in every budget process is providing legislators an opportunity to dive deeper into specific policy issues, so we appreciate the opportunity to discuss the importance of the Clinical Teaching Support (CTS) funding.

HISTORICAL SSI MED II AND CLINICAL TEACHING LINE ITEMS FUNDING

As the attached one-pager to my testimony details, the State budget provides two primary components that help support medical and health care education: the State Share of Instruction (primarily through “SSI Med II” formula) and the Clinical Teaching Support line items. For several years, the budget has appropriated funding to Ohio’s public medical colleges through the SSI Med II funding formula based on the statewide share of FTE enrollment, while the CTS line items defray the cost of the clinical teaching experiences. Due to shifts in enrollments, you will see in the chart that SSI Med II funding has fluctuated significantly over the past 10 years, ranging from a 16% decrease (Ohio State) to a 68% increase (Ohio U). Over the same period, funding for the individual CTS line items have all been reduced or flat-funded, except for Wright State’s line item as a result the inclusion of a \$1.5 million annual earmark included in the previous budget bill.

Each public medical school in Ohio, along with Case Western Reserve University, has its own individual clinical teaching line item in the state operating budget through the Ohio Department of Higher Education. According to the **Ohio Legislative Service Commission’s Budget Green Book**:

“These six-line items provide subsidies in support of laboratory and clinical teaching components of the medical and other health-related curricula at each of Ohio’s six public medical colleges.

These items help defray the costs of clinical training for Ohio’s student health professionals.

Clinical training is regarded as a fundamental component in the education of physicians and other health care professionals. Areas of subsidized training include *medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, and medical technologies.*” [Emphasis added]

Since their inception, the individual nature of these separate CTS line items has recognized that the utilization of these funds is unique to each school. While institutions without an academic medical center may use these funds to cover the cost of clinical placements for their medical students with a partner provider or hospital, CTS funding for those of us with an affiliated teaching hospital use this funding to directly offset the cost of delivering the clinical education.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CLINICAL TEACHING LINE ITEM

At Ohio State, funding for our CTS line item has historically funded laboratory and clinical teaching components of both medical and other health-related programs.¹ Since it was first created, the Ohio State CTS line item has supported multidisciplinary training for thousands of medical, nursing, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, physician assistant, radiology, and other allied health students. Ohio State has always used this funding to provide clinical education to both medical and other health professional students in undergraduate, postgraduate and professional programs at one of the largest, most complex academic medical centers in the country.

The Ohio State College of Medicine distributes all the clinical teaching funds to clinical departments to compensate them for faculty time spent teaching various health learners. This line item helps support clinical teaching for **872 Ohio State medical students** and hundreds of other students in our nursing, PT/OT, pharmacy, and other allied health programs at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. Other Ohio State students receiving clinical teaching at Ohio State includes the following learners:

- Nursing Undergraduate: 1091
- Nursing Graduate: 156
- Pharmacy: 345
- Physical Therapy: 147
- Occupational Therapy: 145
- Radiation Therapy: 24
- Radiography: 40
- Sonography: 20
- Genetic Counseling: 16
- Respiratory Therapy: 28
- Medical Laboratory Science: 41

NON-OSU MEDICAL STUDENTS STUPPORTED BY CTS FUNDING

In addition to providing clinical experience for our own students, funding that we receive through CTS has helped Ohio State provides clinical training to hundreds, of medical students from other Ohio medical colleges. Thanks to the CTS funding, Ohio State can provide clinical education to these students at **no cost** to the student or their college, except for a one-time required background check. Following is the number students from Ohio medical colleges who recently received their clinical training at OSUWMC:

	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD
Case Western Reserve University	0	6	5	3
Northeastern Ohio Medical University	8	15	15	8
University of Toledo	5	8	8	11
University of Cincinnati	3	4	8	2
Wright State University	3	10	13	21
Ohio University	39	50	60	52
Total Med Students from Other Ohio Schools Trained at OSUWMC	58	93	109	97

¹ Legislative Budget Office's "Catalog of Special Purpose Accounts, Subsidy Accounts, & Special Accounts, August 1991"

NON-OSU ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY CTS FUNDING

Funding provided through our CTS line items helps to not only support thousands of medical and health care Ohio State students, but thousands of other students from Ohio's community colleges, public universities and private institutions who rely on the OSU Wexner Medical Center to deliver clinical experiences. Again, just like with non-OSU medical students, Ohio State's CTS funding is critical to enabling us to offer the clinical education for these students at **no cost**.

In the past academic year, there were approximately 1000 external (non-Ohio State) nursing and allied health students who are receiving the clinical education at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, with more than 500 in nursing alone. Additional students include 45 medical imaging learners, 69-96 advanced practice providers, and 99 student registered nurse anesthetists. The remaining are a combination of medical dietetics, surgical technologists, respiratory therapists, and other allied health disciplines.

Following is list of the various Ohio colleges and universities who partner with Ohio State to send their students to our hospital to receive their clinical education:

Nursing

- Capital University**
- Chamberlain University**
- Columbus State Community College**
- Ohio University (Athens, Chillicothe, and Zanesville campuses) **
- Mount Carmel College of Nursing**
- Otterbein University**
- Central Ohio Technical College**
- Ohio Northern University
- Kent State University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Bowling Green State University
- University of Toledo
- Youngstown State University
- Wright State University
- Ashland University
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation R.B. Turnbull, Jr., MD School of WOC Nursing
- The University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati
- Xavier University
- Wittenberg University

** Schools that send nursing students to OSUWMC regularly (i.e. each semester)

Physical Therapy

- Youngstown State University
- University of Toledo
- University of Dayton
- Walsh University
- University of Cincinnati
- Mount St. Joseph
- University of Findlay

- Ohio University
- University of Mount Union

Occupational Therapy

- Walsh University
- Cleveland State University
- University of Toledo

Other Allied Health

- Wright State University
- University of Cincinnati
- Columbus State Community College
- Clark State
- Youngstown State University
- Central Ohio Technical College
- Kettering University
- University of Rio Grande

To illustrate the number of students that benefit from our CTS funding, following is the total number of therapy and rehabilitation students who received their clinical education at Ohio State:

-	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Rehab Students	279	257	268	257
Total Athletic Training Students			6	7
Total Audiology Students	6	4	2	0
Total Occupational Therapy Students	67	72	102	85
Total Physical Therapy Students	183	154	139	15
Total Speech Language Pathology Students	23	27	19	11
OSU Athletic Training Students			5	7
OSU Audiology Students	6	4	2	0
OSU Occupational Therapy Students	37	44	72	56
OSU Physical Therapy Students	89	77	73	85
OSU Speech Language Pathology Students	22	21	18	10
Total OSU Students	154	146	170	158
Students from other Ohio Schools	67	73	65	70

NO FEES CHARGED TO OHIO INSTITUTIONS OR THEIR STUDENTS

As mentioned previously, other than a one-time criminal background check that is required for any faculty, staff, or student working in the medical center, Ohio State **does not** charge for any external students for clinical rotations.

RESIDENT PHYSICIANS

While not supported by CTS funding, the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center also has **828 resident physicians**, and **225 fellows**, for a total of **1053 physicians in training**. The length of residency training ranges from three years for family physicians and general internal medicine to seven years for neurosurgeons. Many continue to complete a specialization fellowship to complete their training. During this time, resident physicians and fellows work under the supervision of attending physicians.

OTHER MEDICAL COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the dozens of partnerships with other Ohio colleges and universities outlined above, The OSU College of Medicine participates in the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO) system through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Medical students interested in clinical rotations at the OSU Wexner Medical center are encouraged to apply through this system.

Finally, OSU and Bon Secours Mercy Health created the Healthy State Alliance to address health needs of Ohioans. Through this collaboration, we established a Community Medicine track at the OSU College of Medicine. We welcomed the first cohort of 15 students in fall 2024, with 15 additional students expected in the track each year. These students complete their first two years of medical education at OSU's Columbus campus and finish their final two years at the OSU Lima campus, with clinical rotations at St. Rita's Hospital. These students are recruited specifically for this program and have expressed interest in practicing in rural and smaller communities.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Unfortunately, I am not prepared to provide much feedback on the draft legislation that Chairman Young's office shared with us Monday since we have not yet had a chance to thoroughly analyze the proposed changes. It appears the new proposed legislation would:

- Limit the allowable uses for CTS funding to training physicians only.
- Require 90% of the funding to be allocated based on the proportional share of statewide FTEs, similar to how SSI Med II funding is distributed
- The remaining 10% would be allocated based on certain performance metrics.

Following is the estimated impact of this proposal to shift 90% of the current appropriations to a proportional share of statewide FTEs of medical students only. The chart estimates the impact of this proposal compared to each respective university's appropriations for both the current fiscal year and those included in the House-passed version of HB 96. While not a complete fiscal analysis, it is clear that the proposal would dramatically shift funding between medical colleges, resulting in very wide swings in overall funding.

Of note, the current bill draft does not include any underlying GRF appropriations or authority to aggregate the individual line items to allocate the funding through a new formula. To provide an estimated fiscal analysis of the proposal, we have assumed that the intent was to combine the total funding levels for each of the six individual line-items.

	GRF Line Item	FY 25 ALI Approp	FY 26 (HB 96 - As Passed by House)	FY 26 (Proposal @ 90% Statewide FTE)*	Proposal vs FY 25	% Change	Proposal vs HB 96 (As Passed by House)	% Change
UC	235537	\$8,343,000	\$8,085,000	\$4,685,631	(\$3,657,368.70)	-43.8%	(\$3,399,369)	-42.0%
NEOMED	235541	\$3,018,000	\$2,930,000	\$4,016,255	\$998,255.40	33.1%	\$1,086,255	37.1%
OSU	235536	\$9,745,000	\$9,461,000	\$5,296,801	(\$4,448,199.40)	-45.6%	(\$4,164,199)	-44.0%
OU	235540	\$2,934,000	\$2,849,000	\$6,431,829	\$3,497,829.30	119.2%	\$3,582,829	125.8%
UT	235538	\$6,247,000	\$6,065,000	\$5,442,317	(\$804,682.90)	-12.9%	(\$622,683)	-13.3%
WSU**	235539	\$3,035,000	\$2,947,000	\$3,230,466	\$195,466.30	6.4%	\$283,466	9.6%
Total		\$33,322,000	\$32,337,000	\$29,103,300				

* Additional 10% of funding allocated based on certain performance metrics

**Wright State's total line item in HB 96 is \$4,447,000, which includes a \$1.5m earmark.

Ohio State recognizes the value of reviewing how the State funds clinical education at our institutions. However, it is important to evaluate how any change would impact the clinical education that we are able to offer – particularly the thousands of students from community colleges and public and private institutions who rely on Ohio State to provide this training. That is why we have recommended that the requiring the chancellor to lead a CTS funding consultation with Ohio’s medical colleges to make data-driven recommendations to implement a first-ever clinical teaching funding formula that would support medical and other healthcare learners.

For over four decades, state funding has enabled us to provide clinical training to thousands of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals, and we strongly believe this has been a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Chairman Young, thank you once again for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your leadership in elevating this important discussion to identify a collaborative approach to address the shortage of healthcare workers in Ohio.