THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

House Bill 96
Interested Party Testimony
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
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Good afternoon, Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am the CEO of The Ohio State University Total Health Care Center (THCC), a Federally Qualified Health Center, and a Family Nurse Practitioner. I am testifying today to encourage the inclusion of operating support for our dental clinic in Sub. House Bill 96, the state operating budget bill.

The Total Health Care Center, a nurse practitioner-led Federally Qualified Health Center, is requesting $250,000 in operating support for FY 2026 and 2027 to sustain and expand dental services in East Columbus—a region designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. In August 2024, THCC opened a four-chair dental clinic at OSU Outpatient Care East, now serving over 7,500 patients annually with comprehensive, family-centered care integrated with medical and behavioral health services. Due to high community need and increasing demand, THCC is working to expand the dental clinic from 4 to 6 operatories to improve access and serve more patients.

Dental health is a key component of whole-person health and THCC is working hard to meet the multiple health needs of the East Columbus community. Since opening, the dental clinic has become established in the community, is now open full-time, and employs a full-time dentist and hygienist. Additional members of the dental care team are coming on board to continue to increase the number of patients the site can serve.

OSU is a committed partner to this project and will contribute additional resources to complete the renovation of the space, cover any additional operating losses, and continue to expand dental access in underserved areas.

We urge your support of operating funds for the Ohio State Dental Clinic at Outpatient Care East in Sub. H.B. 96. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.
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