

Testimony of Patrick M. Lloyd, DDS, MS
Dean and Professor, Division of Restorative Sciences and Prosthodontics
The Ohio State University College of Dentistry
Senate Finance Committee
June 6, 2017
Substitute House Bill 49

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the state budget and Substitute House Bill 49. I am Dr. Patrick Lloyd, Dean of The Ohio State University College of Dentistry.

Our college receives state support through the Medical 1 set-aside within the State Share of Instruction. This line item received level funding in the bill as passed by the Ohio House, and we request that the Senate maintain this funding.

We also receive funding through the OSU Clinic Support line item, which supports clinical experiences for students within the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Dentistry at OSU. Funding for this line is \$766,533 in state fiscal year 2017.

The House reduced the Clinic Support funding by 10 percent to \$689,990 in SFY 2018 and eliminated it in 2019. The funding for OSU Clinic Support in FY2019 would be combined with other line items that support the state's medical colleges and would be allocated by the Chancellor of Higher Education.

We request that the Senate restore the 10 percent reduction in the OSU Clinical Support funding. **We also request that these items be decoupled from medical education funding in the second year of the biennium.**

The results of these requests will have a substantial, positive impact on the funding that allows our College of Dentistry to support its community-based education programs that provide dental students with an increased awareness and understanding of the unique oral health care needs of Ohio's underserved populations, while also giving our students an opportunity to serve communities in need.

Our Office of Community Education partners with 32 health care clinics throughout the state to give dental students 50 required days of community-based clinical dental education. This required educational experience helps address access to dental care in federally designated workforce shortage areas. The College of Dentistry does not receive any reimbursement for the services that the students provide at these locations.

While working under faculty supervision in a community health clinic, as many as 35 students are exposed each day to the special needs of underserved populations, the array of health care delivery models, and the financial models that sustain these systems. As they serve these communities and patients, our students also provide referrals for patients who require advanced dental care at our college. Through these experiences, our students are prepared to provide care for such patients in their own dental practices, and it increases the likelihood that they will choose to practice in underserved communities and become Medicaid dental providers after graduation.

We take seriously our responsibility to provide oral health care for all Ohioans, and especially for those Medicaid-eligible patients who have advanced dental needs and complex health conditions. In 2015, our college provided care for at least one adult Medicaid patient from 84 of Ohio's 88 counties. These patients travel long distances because they need specialized oral health care at specialized facilities like ours which provides services that are not readily available throughout the state.

For more than 125 years, our college has embraced its public purpose to educate and train capable and compassionate dentists who will serve Ohioans in general, and the state's most vulnerable patients in particular.

Our College of Dentistry educates more than 60 percent of Ohio's dentists. Furthermore, our college has committed to increasing its class size by 10 additional students who will be recruited from underserved areas in Ohio. Because of their demographics and other factors, this group will have a greater likelihood of practicing in underserved areas after graduation. However, many of these students will be highly dependent on our college to help with their tuition expenses as they work to meet their career goals. When fully implemented, this plan will result in 40 new student positions for the college.

Our ability and capacity to continue providing such educational and health care services will be profoundly impacted by the proposed 10 percent reduction in the OSU Clinical Support section of the Substitute H.B. 49. I respectfully ask you to consider our request to restore this proposed reduction and to keep a separately funded OSU Clinic Support line item in FY 2019.

On behalf of our college, I thank you for the time you have given me to speak with you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.