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**Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition
Legislative Activities Report
January 2018**

Both the House and Senate concluded their work for the first half of the 132nd General Assembly after using their final session day in December to act on numerous pieces of legislation. Neither chamber is expected to resume session until the middle of January. The House is scheduled to meet as many as 32 times between January and June, although 20 of those session days are listed as “if needed.” The Senate has scheduled 24 session days during that same time; however, 13 of those days are listed as “if needed.” Legislators will then recess of the summer and much of the fall to prepare for the 2018 election in November.

Looking ahead, over the next few months policy-makers will face the next major state spending measure – the capital appropriations bill for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020. The legislation, which is designed to fund capital improvements with state-issued debt, is slated for introduction and passage by April 2018 – giving legislators a few short months to pass the bill once they return from recess early next year. The previous capital budget included over \$2.5 billion in appropriations, including \$160 million in community projects.

In agency news, ODE is reportedly close to naming members of the workforce shortage workgroup mandated by the biennial budget bill. GAC has shared a lot of information with ODE regarding our substantial work in this arena over the years. We are hopeful that ODE will take GAC's recommendations on membership on the workgroup.

In other agency news, the inaugural meeting of the Speech and Hearing Professionals Board is scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2018. The new members of the Board have not been appointed, but are expected to be named before the first meeting. OBSLPA Executive Director, Gregg Thornton, has done tremendous work on the transition; we remain hopeful that he will take over leadership of the new Board.

In election news, two current state senators have announced their intentions to run for the 12th Congressional District, which will be vacated by U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi, who announced his plans earlier this year to leave office. Senator Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Senator Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) are joined by Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien who has also announced she is seeking the Republican nomination. On the Democrat side, former Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott is seeking his party's nomination. As sheriff, Scott warred with the local Democratic establishment in unsuccessfully running against Democrat Andrew Ginther for mayor of Columbus in 2015. Scott then sought re-election in 2016 but was defeated in a primary by Dallas Baldwin, who now serves as sheriff. The Republican-leaning 12th District spans northern Franklin County suburbs and runs northeast to Richland County and east to take in Licking County and part of Muskingum County.

In other campaign news, gubernatorial candidates have started announcing their running mates for the upcoming election. Attorney General Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Jon Husted shook up the GOP race when they announced that they were joining forces. Shortly thereafter, Mary Taylor announced Cincinnati-area business executive Nathan Estruth as her lieutenant governor running mate. On the Democratic side, Senator Joe Schiavoni was the first gubernatorial hopeful to name a running mate, tapping State Board of Education member Stephanie Dodd to run as his lieutenant governor. Former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray chose former Congresswoman Betty Sutton as his running mate. Ohio Supreme Court Justice William O'Neill then named Larkmoor Elementary School principal Chantelle Lewis as his lieutenant governor candidate.

Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel recently shocked many when he announced that he was dropping out of the U.S. Senate race, citing concerns about his wife's health. Cleveland businessman Mike Gibbons has been campaigning for months and has received some key Republican endorsements. It is also being reported that U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci plans to end his campaign for governor and instead run for the U.S. Senate.

Former State Representative Rob McColley was formally sworn-in as senator of the 1st Senate District in December. The Senate seat was vacated by Cliff Hite, who abruptly resigned his position earlier this year. McColley previously served as the House's assistant majority whip and was in his second term representing northwest Ohio's 81st House District. McColley was appointed to the following committees: Agriculture, Education, Public Utilities, and Transportation, Commerce and Workforce.

The House Republican Caucus recently announced its replacements for the vacancies in the 81st and 87th Districts. Former State Representative Jim Hoops was selected to replace now Senator Rob McColley in the 81st District and Riordan McClain, son of former Rep. Jeff McClain, was chosen to replace Wes Goodman in the 87th District. Mr. Hoops, of Napoleon, is currently associate vice president for Strategic Initiatives at Northwest State Community College. He also previously served as Henry County auditor. Mr. McClain, of Upper Sandusky,

is director of Finance and Customer Service at Doc Investments LLC. He holds degrees from Bluffton University and the University of Findlay.

Ohio's unemployment rate fell to 4.8% in November from 5.1% the month before, but the total number of jobs declined by 5,600 over the month, the Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) reported. The number of unemployed workers decreased by 17,000 to 279,000 in November, the latest data show. Over the past 12 months, the unemployed total has dropped by 6,000, ODJFS said. The unemployment rate was 5% in November 2016. The U.S. unemployment rate for November was 4.1%, which was unchanged from October and down from 4.6% in November 2016.

In other news, Governor John Kasich recently announced he will deliver his next State of the State address from Westerville, Ohio on Tuesday, March 6th. Governor Kasich has deviated from giving the speech at the traditional Statehouse location, and has instead traveled to various cities throughout Ohio to give the speech. The request to hold the State of the State address in Westerville, must be approved by both the House and the Senate.

We have been tracking the following legislation during the 132nd General Assembly:

HB49 OPERATING BUDGET (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

Current Status: 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto

HB51 DEPARTMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE (FABER K) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)

HB75 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE-ARMED FORCES (GAVARONE T, MERRIN D) To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state.

Current Status: 3/15/2017 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, (Second Hearing)

HB85 ENTER HEALTH CARE COMPACT (RETFERFORD W) To enter into the Health Care Compact.

Current Status: 3/7/2017 - House Federalism and Interstate Relations, (First Hearing)

HB98 CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.

Current Status: 12/13/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

HB115 DATABASE-PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITY (GAVARONE T, WIGGAM S) To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.

Current Status: 11/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

HB131 PHYSICAL THERAPY LAWS (GAVARONE T, REINEKE W) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

Current Status: 11/29/2017 - House Health , (Fifth Hearing)

HB150 LICENSE PLATE CREATION (PATMON B) To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals.

Current Status: 6/7/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)

HB262 INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS (BUTLER, JR. J, ROMANCHUK M) To provide for the preparation of a state biennial budget independent of that submitted by the Governor and to authorize the Legislative Service Commission, upon the request of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate, to arrange for an independent actuarial review of a proposed bill, specified analyses of economic policy initiatives and state benchmarking data, and a study of the state's long-range financial outlook.

Current Status: 6/20/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

HB280 MOTORCYCLE EARPLUGS (GOODMAN W) To permit a person to wear earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.

Current Status: 11/8/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)

HB289 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW (HOOD R, MCCOLLEY R) To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, to require the Common Sense Initiative Office to review certain actions taken by occupational licensing boards, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

Current Status: 10/17/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)

HB399 HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS INCENTIVES (HENNE M, BUTLER, JR. J) To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees.

Current Status: 11/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Health

HB440 SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE (FEDOR T, KENT B) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

Current Status: 12/7/2017 - Introduced

HCR5 SUPPORT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (SYKES E) To urge the Congress of the United States, and in particular the Ohio Congressional delegation, to support the preservation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

Current Status: 2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Insurance

HCR6 REPEAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (GOODMAN W, FABER K) To urge congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the affordable care act and to recommend that future federal health care policies restore power to the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.

Current Status: 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

Current Status: 11/6/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Eff. 90 days

SB27 DEAF HISTORY MONTH DESIGNATION (BEAGLE B) To designate the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."

Current Status: 10/19/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

SB48 HEARING IMPAIRED-DRIVING (WILLIAMS S) To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals and to require the registrar to include an identifying symbol on a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state-issued identification card of a hearing-impaired individual, if requested.

Current Status: 3/7/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

SB59 BICYCLE USE-HELMETS (SKINDELL M) To require bicycle operators and passengers under 18 years of age to wear protective helmets when the bicycle is operated on a roadway and to establish the Bicycle Safety Fund to be used by the Department of Public Safety to assist low-income families in the purchase of bicycle helmets.

Current Status: 3/28/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

SB79 STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE (JORDAN K) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic

review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

Current Status: 9/12/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

SB91 OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN (SKINDELL M, TAVARES C) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

Current Status: 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

SB93 HEALTH INSURANCE-HEARING AIDS (BROWN E) To require health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

Current Status: 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

SB99 MEDICAID EXPANSION-NEW ENROLLMENT (COLEY W) To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group.

Current Status: 3/21/2017 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)

SB110 HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS-IDENTIFICATION (TAVARES C) To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient.

Current Status: 4/26/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid

SB168 MEDICAID EXPANSION (JORDAN K) To prohibit the Medicaid program from covering the expansion eligibility group and to require aggregate General Revenue Fund appropriations for state agencies to be reduced by specified amounts for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2019.

Current Status: 6/28/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

SB174 WAGE PROTECTIONS-FAIR ACT (TAVARES C) To enact the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required (FAIR) Act" and to revise the enforcement of the prohibitions against discrimination in the payment of wages.

Current Status: 9/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce

SB177 VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE-IMMUNITY (LEHNER P) To expand the circumstances in which qualified immunity from civil liability applies with respect to volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons.

Current Status: 9/26/2017 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)