



**Sunset Review Committee
In-person Testimony
Ohio Department of Health
Lisa Griffin, Director of Government Affairs
July 30, 2024**

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Lisa Griffin, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at the Ohio Department of Health.

The Ohio Department of Health respectfully requests that the following entities be retained:

- Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board
- Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board
- Radiation Advisory Council (RAC)
- Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC)
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Medical Advisory Council (Previously known as the Medically Handicapped Children's Medical Advisory Council)

Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board

The Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program (ODLRP) Advisory Board was established in 2004 in accordance with ORC 3702.92 to provide guidance for the ODLRP. Later, with the establishment of the Ohio Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Program (ODHLRP) in 2015, the Board was given the additional responsibility of providing guidance to both the dentist and dental hygienist loan repayment programs. The loan repayment programs by the Ohio Department of Health to improve access to dental care for Ohio's underserved communities by recruiting and retaining general and pediatric dentists and dental hygienists who agree to practice in rural and urban shortage areas and to serve patients regardless of their ability to pay. The programs provide up to \$50,000 for repayment of outstanding dental and dental hygiene school loans for selected dentists and dental hygienists who commit to an initial two-year contract. A maximum of \$120,000 is available to those program participants who practice for four years under a loan repayment contract. There are no funds appropriated for the work of the Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board. Board members are not compensated or reimbursed for travel.

The Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board is currently made up four representatives of the dental profession nominated by the Ohio Dental Association, a representative of the Department of Higher Education, and the Department of Health, all with two year terms. Last year, the legislature added language to the budget bill (HB 33) that removed the legislative members from the advisory board. The board meets at least once annually primarily to approve the Dentist Loan Repayment Program awards, in-line with federal loan repayment guidance.

Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board

The Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board is set up similarly to the Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board. It contains a representative of the department of higher education, department of health, and three representatives of the chiropractic profession. Last year, HB 33 contained language to remove the two legislative members from the advisory board. Each member serves a term of two years, and no person shall be appointed to the board for more than two consecutive terms. The board meets at least once annually, and board members serve without compensation.

The Chiropractic loan repayment program (ORC 3702.98) provides loan repayment on behalf of individuals who agree to provide chiropractic services for at least two years in areas designated as chiropractic health resource shortage areas by ODH. The Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program rules are currently being promulgated. Under the program, ODH may agree to repay all or part of the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken by an individual for tuition and other expenses while enrolled in an accredited chiropractic school or college.

Radiation Advisory Council (RAC)

The Radiation Advisory Council (RAC) was established in accordance with section 3748.20 of the Ohio Revised Code. The 13 members of the Radiation Advisory Council are appointed by the governor for five-year terms. Members are doctors, experts in physics, radiation safety professionals, radon mitigation professionals, a member of a statewide consumer group, a public member, and an individual with expertise of federal radiation protection regulations (nonvoting member). All others are voting members.

Duties of the council include:

- Advising and consulting with the director on the development of rules;
- Advising and consulting with the director concerning the administration, implementation and enforcement of Chapter 3748 of the Ohio Revised Code; and
- Advising and consulting with the director in the development of inspection criteria, procedures and guidelines to be used in the radiation control program.

Important objectives of the council include utilizing existing national standards (where available) and soliciting input from the public and the regulated community to ensure that radiation protection regulations are up to-date.

The council serves as an influential and active body in advising the Director of Health, on key radiological issues facing the ODH. Significant technical input is provided to ODH's radiation control program on all rule making actions proposed by ODH. Since the council members represent key stakeholder groups for radiological issues, the radiation control program receives

crucial input from stakeholders through the council. This input ensures that proposed rulemaking serves to protect workers, the general public, and the environment without unduly burdening businesses.

Since ODH assumed regulatory authority for most uses of radioactive material from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in August 1999, the council has provided crucial support to ODH. This support includes input on rulemaking to keep Ohio Administrative Code rules compatible with federal regulations and providing technical advice when needed. The council has played a significant role in ODH being recognized by the NRC as having one of the leading radioactive material regulatory programs in the United States.

In the past year, the council and its committees have provided input and guidance to the radiation control program on important issues and rulemaking such as radiation standards, radiation generating equipment therapy treatments, medical use of radioactive material, security of radioactive material, and transportation of radioactive material. Upcoming issues facing the radiation control program and the council include licensing of special nuclear material, licensing of radioactive material used in new and emerging medical treatments and technologies, and new developments in the field of micro-reactors.

ODH respectfully asks that the Radiation Advisory Council be retained.

Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC)

The Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) is established in ORC 103.60 and is made up of 31 members. In statute, rare disease is defined as a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 people living in the United States. The members are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives (5), and the President of the Ohio Senate (5). The members represent rare disease medical research; medical professionals and the Ohio Hospital Association; members of the public either living with a rare disease or representing individuals living with a rare disease; national organization and rare disease foundation membership; state agency representation from Health (ODH), Medicaid (ODM), and Insurance (ODI); the Commission on Minority Health; health insurers, a local health commissioner, pharmaceutical research, and bioOhio. The legislative appointments made are for both legislative members and members of the public.

The statutory purpose of this group is to advise the general assembly regarding research, diagnosis, and treatment efforts related to rare diseases across the state. RDAC is tasked with preparing and submitting a report to the General Assembly detailing the following:

- (1) The coordination of statewide efforts for studying the incidence of rare diseases in this state;
- (2) The council's findings and recommendations regarding rare disease research and care in this state;
- (3) Efforts to promote collaboration among rare disease organizations, clinicians, academic research institutions, and the general assembly to better understand the incidence of rare diseases in this state.

The council meets at the call of the chair, at least quarterly for in-person meetings. The chair is chosen by council members. While the Ohio Department of Health is not named as the agency to provide administrative support, we currently provide that function through existing agency staff in our ODH Bureau of Child and Family Health. The statute allows the council to reimburse

members for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. RDAC does not receive any appropriated funds.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Medical Advisory Council (MAC) underwent a name update in HB 33 last year. The MAC was previously known as the Medically Handicapped Children's Medical Advisory Council. The MAC is authorized in ORC 3701.25 and is made up of twenty-one members appointed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

The MAC advises the director regarding the administration of the ODH Complex Medical Help (CMH) program for children and youth with special health care needs (previously known as Children with Medical Handicaps - CMH). The CMH program links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need. The CMH program's mission is to assure, through the development and support of high quality, coordinated systems, that children with special health care needs and their families obtain comprehensive care and services.

The Medical Advisory Council (MAC) also advises the director regarding the suitable quality of medical practice for providers, and the requirements for medical eligibility for the program.

The twenty-one members of the MAC are licensed physicians, surgeons, dentists, and other professionals in the field of medicine, representative of the various disciplines involved in the treatment of children and youth with special health care needs, and representative of the treatment facilities involved, such as hospitals, private and public health clinics, and private physicians' offices.

Members of the MAC receive no compensation but are permitted to receive actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. No expenses have been paid for this purpose in the last thirty years.

ODH respectfully requests that the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Medical Advisory Council (MAC) be retained.

Thank you, Chair Wilkin and members of the Sunset Review Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.