

**TESTIMONY BY THE OHIO STATE DENTAL BOARD
BEFORE THE OHIO SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE
SUPERVISORY INVESTIGATIVE PANEL (SIP)**

July 30, 2024

Good morning, Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer, and distinguished members of the Ohio Sunset Review Committee, I am Harry Kamdar, Executive Director of the Ohio State Dental Board. I am honored to be in front of you today and I thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, hereinafter, referred to as the "SIP."

The SIP is legally authorized under the following sections of the Ohio Revised Code:

4715.032, "*Supervisory Investigative Panel*"; Effective date 9/13/2010

4715.033, "*Issuance of Subpoenas*"; Effective date 9/13/2010

4715.034, "*Authority of Panel to meet with individuals under investigation; Recommendations*"; Effective date 9/13/2010

4715.035, "*Calculation of Time Period for Recommendation*"; Effective date 9/13/2010

The SIP is comprised of both the Secretary and the Vice-Secretary of the Board. Both members are elected by the Board to serve a one-year term in those positions and are required to spend approximately 20 hours per week working on SIP related matters. Prior to the statutory creation of SIP in 2010, all of the Board's investigations were reviewed by only one Board member, the Board's Secretary. We believe that having two Board members review each case promotes greater objectivity and more consistent outcomes for our licensees. Also, it offers better protection for the public because both members must review each investigation and agree on the recommendation that is made to the full Board.

The overarching purpose of the SIP is to provide supervision from a clinical and practical perspective of the 400 – 500 investigations of dentists and other licensees in the dental field which are completed annually by Board staff. The SIP reviews the investigations with the Board's Chief Legal Counsel, and then makes a recommendation to the full Board. Depending on the severity of an infraction, the SIP may recommend any of the following actions to the full Board: closing an investigation with no disciplinary action; issuing a warning letter; issuing a consent agreement; issuing a notice of opportunity for hearing; mandating remedial training; suspension of a license; or revocation of a license in extreme cases. Recommendations from the SIP are then voted on by the full Board at public hearings and the SIP members abstain from voting because they have personal knowledge of the facts of the investigated cases.

The Board is respectfully requesting the continuation of the SIP so as to ensure that the Board's investigations are reviewed by two experienced dentists that can make sound recommendations to the full Board. Additionally, as the SIP is essentially a two-person committee fulfilling an essential function of the Board, investigation oversight, we would like to work with the Members of the Sunset Review Committee on revising the statutory language that created the SIP to accurately reflect that it is an integral part of the Dental Board and not a separate entity as currently classified by the Legislative Service Commission.

At this time, I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.