



**Ohio Association of Orthodontists Director to the GLAO
Dr. Thomas J Robinson**

February 28, 2023

The Ohio Association of Orthodontists concluded our semiannual conference call on February 27, 2023, and had a number of items up for discussion.

The OAO participated in defeating a proposed change to Ohio Dental Practice Act. The proposed change would have greatly expanded orthodontic treatment via teledentistry in the state of Ohio. These changes were advocated by mail-in orthodontic companies and the American Teledentistry Association.

Our Lobbyist (Aaron Ockerman) has arranged to meet with the Ohio Community College Association to encourage the development of orthodontic assistant training programs. The OAO would like to coordinate these efforts with the AAO's Work Force Shortage Task Force.

The OAO is also exploring Dental Student Loan Repayment funding in the OH budget to increase incentives and opportunities for orthodontic residents who practice in areas of need in Ohio.

The OAO is continuing with its Facebook sponsored add initiative and have seen a number of key tracking metrics continue to improve. Given the positive results, funding will continue for this project for at least the next year.

Finally, the OAO is investigating a virtual option for their annual business meeting. The OAO will have its annual business meeting in combination with the Cleveland Society of Orthodontists educational meeting but will also offer a virtual option for those OAO members who wish to attend the business meeting but do not wish to attend the CSO event. Options were discussed to alternate business meeting between the CSO meeting and at GLAO annual session.

Respectfully submitted,

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