



GLAO Director-Ohio Component Director- Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham

February 15, 2026

Dear Ohio Members of the Great Lakes,

The AAO, in conjunction with Ohio orthodontists, held our third annual Lobby Day on Tuesday, November 18th. The idea of this event is to build relationships with lawmakers, so that they are aware of us and will be interested in our concerns. Attendees included practicing orthodontists and three orthodontic residents. The residents' participation was critical to discussing the issues of student debt challenges and concerns about future workforce opportunities and access to care in Ohio.

Attendees met with eight legislative offices from the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate, discussing:

- Student loan debt challenges
- Concerns surrounding mail-order orthodontics and preserving the Ohio tele-dentistry permit
- Key issues related to the Ohio State Dental Board's potential specialty advertising rules changes

The third issue, concerns about the Ohio State Dental Board making potential changes to the Specialty Advertising Laws, has been the predominant concern for practicing orthodontists in Ohio. As mentioned in earlier newsletters, we are fortunate to be on the same page and working in conjunction with the AAO legal department, the Ohio Dental Association, and our local lobbyists hired through the AAO Component Support Legal Fund, to help us fight this issue that could severely impact patient care and orthodontic practices in Ohio. To be continued...

On another note, Ohio has the privilege of hosting the 100th anniversary of the GLAO right in the heart of the state- Columbus, Ohio! Preparations are underway to make this a great celebration. **We are asking all Ohio orthodontists to block their calendars now for the meeting, which will take place at the Hilton Downtown from October 23-24, 2026.**

Ohio is also proud to congratulate Dr. Kevan O'Neill on becoming a trustee-at-large. He hails from Dayton, Ohio. This will be the 3rd trustee in the current decade to serve on the AAO Board of Trustees!

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Anne Featheringham

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