

## **House Finance Committee**

### **Testimony by Rajai Saleh**

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Cera and other members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Rajai Saleh and I am here to express my opposition to the expansion of Medicaid Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) that is proposed in the current Main Operating Budget for FY2018 and FY2019.

I am 34 years old and I am enrolled in the Ohio Home Care Waiver through Medicaid. I am also enrolled in Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with disabilities because I do work and want to keep my medical benefits. I have an independent provider who helps me with all of my activities of daily living. Using an independent provider and not having to go through an agency to provide my care has improved my life dramatically. I do not have to go through extra steps to have my basic needs taken care of. I enjoy the flexibility I have right now and I also enjoy not having to worry about whether some of my services will be covered or not. My waiver also has helped me pay for modifications to have an accessible vehicle and with home modifications. So I have many concerns with this proposal.

I oppose requiring individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care waivers to have their care managed by insurance companies. Ohio has strong long-term care waivers in place and these waivers have prevented many individuals from being institutionalized. States that have implemented MLTSS are states that did not have strong long-term care waivers in place. One of the benefits of waivers such as the Ohio Home Care Waiver and the PASSPORT waiver is that individuals have a case manager they can turn to if an issue comes up. Individuals enrolled in MyCare Ohio (demonstration to integrate Medicaid (long-term care) and Medicare (health care) for people dually eligible into managed care) have had many issues with care coordination. I have heard of issues with delays in prior authorizations, their care givers have had payment issues; there have been transportation issues, etc.

Another issue is that different waivers serve different populations and each population has different needs. I am not against having one waiver, as long as each person's needs are assessed and met. Putting everyone in a one-size-fits-all waiver without catering it to an individual's needs can result in loss of services for some individuals. In addition, there isn't enough information on how well MLTSS is working in other states and how well MyCare Ohio is working. Insurance companies want to make money, so services will be compromised and this can be dangerous. This is especially true for individuals who have need more than just their medications managed.

In conclusion, what we have right now in Ohio is working. Privatizing services for the most vulnerable population will lead to negative outcomes. I urge this committee to evaluate this proposal further. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I welcome any questions.