

James Klay, Jr.
McComb, Ohio, Hancock County
Written Testimony regarding the CMH program in HB49 as Introduced
March 23, 2017

I am writing this letter after being informed that the program that helps me may be eliminated. (Hemophilia Insurance Premium Program, HIPP). I have been gifted with the help of this program for a couple of years. Being a man living with hemophilia and type one diabetes I am greatly appreciative of HIPP. I work a full time job, in the transition from my previous job of 6 years to my current job I had to go 6 months without insurance, this program helped me cover the cost of COBRA. This program is more than just a convenience for me. HIPP has helped my family financially by helping with co-pays and deductibles. Having to pay so much out of pocket for medication that I need to live not just a "normal life" but a life. It is taken a burden from my shoulders. As I stated, I work a full time job, have a family and try my best, I am a real person that benefits from this program. I don't believe in any way that I abuse it and it has truly helped me.

This is a safety net for someone with a chronic illness. That not if, but when something happens there is help. I am more than thankful for what it has done for me in the past. I hope this program can continue not only for myself but other families.

As a concerned citizen of Ohio, I ask you to reject the proposed changes to the CMH program and continue to protect these vital services.

The proposed changes to the program will reduce available services and will dramatically limit continued eligibility for middle-income families. I do not fall under the "middle-income" category, I am a low income family. I do not inform you of this for sympathy, this program has greatly helped me. Please ensure that the program stays intact and supports our most vulnerable children in low-income and middle-income families.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.