

Testimony of Jennifer Davis, RN – WRITTEN ONLY
Director of Nursing at the Columbiana County Health Department
HB 49 as Introduced by Governor Kasich
House Finance – Health and Human Services Subcommittee
March 10, 2017

Chairman Romanchuk, members of the HHS Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH), also known as the BCMH program.

My name is Jennifer Davis. I am the Director of Nursing for the Columbiana County Health Department, where I have worked with the families and children on the CMH program since October 2012. I have resided in Columbiana County my entire life, and this is where I have chosen to raise my three children. I have one child currently enrolled on the CMH program.

I am writing you today to put a face to the 40,000 children served by the CMH Program. I am asking that you please allow CMH to continue to serve one of our states most vulnerable populations. This program provides an important safety-net for chronically ill children like my daughter. I am asking that you protect this program that was established in 1919 from the proposed changes in the Governor's budget.

Although the proposed language seems to "grandfather" families into the CMH Program. This will only remain true for families that are medically and financially eligible. Those families that do not meet the Medicaid guidelines will no longer receive services due to being over income. According to the State's numbers, 20% or 8,000 families enrolled in the state of Ohio, will lose service. Looking at the families currently enrolled in Columbiana County, approximately 40% of our families will lose coverage.

This program needs to remain at the Ohio Department of Health. The Governor's proposed move from the Ohio Department of Health to the Ohio Department of Medicaid will impact children and families that so desperately need this safety-net program. This program has been protected under law for nearly a century. Lastly, the CHM Program is not a duplication of services. CMH is always the last payor, and is only utilized once denial is received by both private insurance and Medicaid.

In closing, I ask that you oppose the Governor's proposed move of the CMH to the Ohio Department of Medicaid. I am asking that you consider the families and children that need this program to pay for life saving medications, appointments, procedures, and more. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the need for CMH Program in Columbiana County.