

Representative Mark Romanchuk Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Romanchuk and members of the HHS Subcommittee,

The Governor's budget includes a proposal to significantly change the Ohio Department of Health's Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program by reducing the income eligibility and available services. This program has a long successful history of being a safety-net for families with children who have serious medical conditions. I ask you reject the proposed changes to the CMH program and protect these vital services for Ohio's most vulnerable children.

The CMH program helps families access medical needs that are not covered by insurance (both private and public) and provides much needed support through specialized service coordination to chronically ill children and families. The program serves 40,000 Ohio children including my 15 year old son, Tyler, who has severe hemophilia B.

Tyler's condition is not curable and is quite expensive to treat. His preventive and life saving medicine is roughly \$85,000 a month. We have 2 private insurances through our employers and also CMH to ensure this is covered. CMH will cover anything related to his hemophilia that the insurance companies will not.

He has an implantafix port and requires the preventive medicine 1x a week through it. This requires a port needle, a dressing change kit that includes sterilization, gloves and such, saline flushes and a heparin flush.

Even with the preventive medicine measures, he could still have a bleeding episode that requires emergency care or have issues with his port needing replaced or being infected. Thanks to CMH, we haven't had to try to find an extra thousands of dollars to care for his condition.

My child's care, like others served by CMH, is complicated, specialized, and expensive. CMH has been the safety net that ensures my child receives the care he needs for 15 years. The proposed changes to the CMH program will reduce available services and will dramatically limit continued eligibility for middleincome families.

The CMH program is not broken; it is a payer of last resort. It helps all families who have chronically ill children receive comprehensive support in navigating insurance markets and coverage plans. It assists families with huge financial burdens from increasing out-of-pocket costs, from narrowing provider networks and limited services offered in the private insurance market. Please ensure that the program stays intact and supports our most vulnerable children in low-income and middle-income families.

Sincerely,

Jodi Skinner  
1546 Sargas St  
Columbus, Ohio 43240  
cell # 614-204-6875