

Date: March 23, 2017

Name: Raymond Jones

Organization: The Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program.

Position: Client

3012 Vernon Place , Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

513-541-7099

Representing: Myself and the organization.

I wish to testify regarding Medicaid expansion.

I oppose to the dismantling of the expansion.

Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for allowing me to testify regarding Medicaid expansion. At the age of 16 I went to work for a man that asked if he could pay me in half money and half drugs. He also told me how much money I could make selling drugs. It lead me to a life of selling and using drugs for over 40 years. The only time I did not use drugs was when I was incarcerated. Drugs took over my life.

Once I starting trying to recovery I had no way of paying for treatment. I was put out of treatment programs for a lack of payment. I developed many physical complications due to my use. The only treatment I could get was in the emergency rooms. The emergency room cannot turn anyone away. In 2014, someone told me to apply for Medicaid, I had applied before and was not eligible and I was doubtful that I would be eligible this time. However, I applied and was accepted. The first thing I did was to get a doctor and get my physical conditions cared for. I need blood thinners and treatment for Hepatices C. In addition, to getting my physical health care treated, this past August I took the courageous step and went into UMADAOP for drug treatment. UMADAOP has saved my life but they would not have been able to without Medicaid expansion. I am pleading that you do not eliminate the expansion program. There are many many people like myself depending on Medicaid for insurance.

Thank you once again