

Ohio Finance Subcommittee
on Health and Human Services
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Testimony of Cassandra Barham,
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Good afternoon. My name is Cassandra Barham of the Contact Center. I am here today to speak about the importance of the Medicaid program and especially in support of preserving Medicaid Expansion for Ohioans.

I am an example of someone who was without health insurance for several years. My health became worse during that time because I was not going to routine medical check-ups. I found out my blood pressure was very high and I ended up in the emergency room because of dizzy spells. Then my health had deteriorated to the point where I had a stroke that left me partially paralyzed and unable to speak.

Fortunately I survived and I am here today to say I urge you to have a heart for low-income people like me who have survived high blood pressure and a stroke. I am especially concerned about those who are trying hard to find jobs but are in danger of being terminated from Medicaid due to the work requirement policy that has been approved for Ohio. Having health care coverage and being able to see a doctor makes all the difference. I am an example of a survivor and I hope no one else will have to experience what I have been through.

Thank you.