

Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

**Testimony of:
Kristin Fairbanks
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Chairman Sprague, Ranking member Sykes, Representative Romanchuk and members of the Health and Human Services subcommittee, good afternoon.

My name is Kristin Fairbanks.

I have been dealing with addiction for 10 years. Back in 2007 I tried to get the medical card, Medicaid and I wasn't able to get it because I didn't have my children and I needed treatment.

So it kind of put me in a setback not being able to get medical coverage. I wasn't able to get any kind of alcohol and drug treatment. It was hard. So with the Medicaid expansion I have the Medicaid card and I am able to get the programs I need.

I am in residential treatment right now at New Beginnings and after New Beginnings I plan on going to Intensive Outpatient Treatment and then Relapse Prevention groups, which is really good because like Intensive Outpatient Treatment, it is \$120 a class and without the medical card I wouldn't be able to be pay for it.

I am able to get my medical problems taken care of: dental and healthcare.

I am also able to see a mental health counselor. I lost my mom 2 years ago and she is helping me through that. I wasn't able to grieve. I used to cover up my feelings.

I have been clean for 106 days but without the Medicaid expansion none of this would be possible.

I had an interview for a job with Progress Industries, a factory at Catalyst Life Services and I start next week on Wednesday. Orientation was yesterday. Plus, their Vocational Specialist is able to help me seek other employment as I may be hard to employ because I have a criminal record. So they will find me job placements for when I get out of residential and also help me get my General Education Diploma (G.E.D.)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I'm happy to take any questions you may have at the conclusion of the panel.