

# Ohio House of Representatives



## **State Representative Bernadine Kennedy Kent**

Sponsor Testimony  
House Bill 440

Good morning Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chair Henne and Ranking Member Bocchieri. I am both honored and excited to stand before you today with my colleague, Representative Teresa Fedor of the Ohio 45<sup>th</sup> House District.

Ohio, alone, makes up about 40% of all the counties nationwide that will leave its residents with one option or less for healthcare coverage this year. This is not okay.

Ohio encompasses 18 of the 45 counties nationwide that are expected to have no insurer in the marketplace for plans beginning in 2018. What are our less fortunate neighbors in Crawford, Coshocton, Guernsey, Lawrence, Jackson, Van Wert, Paulding, Vinton, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Noble, Homes, Knox, Hancock, Morgan, and Harrison counties supposed to do? Plain and simple, they die.

Without insulin for diabetic patients, what will happen? Ask any doctor you know.

The same holds true for the elders in our community who were awarded Medicaid,

without prescription coverage. Grandparents on fixed incomes are going to the doctor, being told they are sick, prescribed medication and have no way of paying for it.

We cannot leave it up to the powers that be to decide if our citizens are worth living. They are, and the support of this bill will ensure that we are all covered, *equally*.