

I have been a family physician in Cleveland for 38 years. I have taken care of many people without insurance and it is very difficult. They often cannot afford a visit and avoid care. They run out of medication, cannot get needed lab work or X-rays. I have seen people with cancer not follow up due to lack of coverage. I have seen people without their asthma inhalers end up in the ER gasping for breath, and in one case a patient of mine died from asthma after he lost his coverage. I have seen diabetics who have ended up with complications like amputations and kidney failure due to late diagnosis as well as inability to afford medications and monitoring equipment.

Since implementation of the medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act there has been a vast improvement in care. People can get the tests and medications they need if they qualify for medicaid. There are still many uninsured Ohioans. The single payer bill HB 440 that is being proposed would cover everyone. There would be no need for bureaucracies to establish qualifications for coverage, no people getting low paying jobs and losing their medicaid coverage, no people losing insurance due to losing jobs or becoming too ill to work, no pre existing illness clauses.

It would be the most equitable and affordable way to cover all our residents. I hope you will consider this bill for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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