

TESTIMONY OF JACKIE GREEN REGARDING MEDICAID AND HOUSE BILL 49,  
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE HEALTH AND MEDICAID SUBCOMMITTEE

May 17, 2017

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Tavares, and Committee members:

My name is Jackie Green. I am here today to tell you my story and why I believe the Medicaid expansion is so important for everyone in Ohio.

I have multiple health problems and it is through the Medicaid expansion that they were diagnosed and treated. Now I am on SSI, and I still get Medicaid, but it was the Medicaid Expansion that was so important to me during a critical 6 month period in 2015-2016.

This story starts in 2006 when I lost my job and without income I was unable to keep up my payments on my home. The bank foreclosed and I became homeless. Thanks to a compassionate person, I was able to stay in an old fishing camper. However, the camper was broken into in 2011, and even though I was defending myself I was charged with assault and was incarcerated for four years.

During that time I learned that I had joint deterioration, but the only treatment I received was aspirin to relieve the pain and lower the inflammation. I was released in October of 2015 and was able to get on Medicaid. I was staying in a shelter, and a caseworker helped me to become a patient of Primary One Health. Due to joint pain I could not walk more than 25 feet without resting. Through my early visits to Primary One Health I learned that I have high blood pressure, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. I suffered 2 heart attacks, one in October and the other in December of 2015.

Primary One connected me to the specialists I needed to see. I was able to get a four-hour course on the dietary changes I needed to make. They connected me to therapy for my heart failure. They really helped me re-enter life, because I had been very isolated between 2006 and 2015. They helped me to get clothing, transportation and emergency housing. I live in emergency housing, but it is a single unit, and I pay rent. I have been there for about a year. In the spring of 2016 I got on SSI.

Without the Medicaid expansion I would now have huge hospital bills from the heart attack, and I would not be able to see the specialists that treat my conditions. I was able to get physical therapy and I can now walk better. I am now a patient representative on the Primary One Board of Directors.

Thank you for listening to my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions.