

Diana King- Testimony

Testimony for Ohio Senate Health and Medicaid Subcommittee

5/17/2017

Chairman Hackett and members of the Health and Medicaid Sub-Committee. My name is Diana King and I am a member of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality/NOBLE. We are a coalition of individuals and organizations advocating for ourselves and others who are consumers of State Health and Human Services programs. We are low-income citizens who are most impacted by cuts or negative changes at the State, local and Federal levels to such programs as home delivered and congregate meals, public transportation, Medicaid, child care and adult protective services, just to name a few.

I am here today to talk about Medicaid Expansion. As you are aware 700,000 Ohioans have benefitted from Medicaid Expansion based on the State's Office of Health Transformation report. People have chronic illness under control and they are able to keep their jobs because of it. More people are seeing primary care physicians rather than the emergency room for routine care.

My husband and I have been two of those individuals. My two minor children have benefited from Medicaid coverage for several years, but my husband and I have been fortunate to receive the Medicaid Expansion coverage since it was enacted. We both have serious medical problems. For example my husband has a degenerative bone disease, Nevertheless, although my husband is actively seeking employment, he is currently unemployed. The \$20 a month co-pay for each of us on our very limited income would be an extreme hardship for us to pay. There are many thousands of us Ohio in the same position.

The work requirement as passed by the House of Representatives would also be highly problematic. It hinders our efforts to find employment. Furthermore, there are not the work requirement opportunities available in Cuyahoga County for those who would have to meet those requirements. Many would lose their coverage.

Ultimately, it is the benefit to us all to have a healthy citizenry in Ohio. By limiting those who can receive health care to those who can pay a co-pay and to those who do a work requirement, it will dramatically reduce the number of people receiving health care, and put a strain on our health system. Many low income adults will go back to using their Emergency Room for their primary care.

Medicaid Expansion was the right thing to do both for the benefit of people and because it is cost effective. Please continue the program as it is currently operating.

Thank you for your attention.

Diana King
3500 Lorain Ave. #501
Cleveland, Ohio 44113