



State Senator William P. Coley II  
Senate Bill 99 Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee  
March 21, 2017

Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 99. If enacted, Senate Bill 99 would cease new enrollment in Medicaid for the expansion group (Group VIII) in Ohio.

With the skyrocketing costs of health care that we've all seen firsthand, we need to consider all options and prioritize care. Even with the introduction of the American Health Care Act, this freeze of Medicaid expansion is necessary. We know repeal and replacement of Obamacare is likely, but the specific details of the plan are not set in stone. It is in the best interest of Ohioans to cease expansion until we learn what the new plan will entail and how it will affect our state system. This freeze is especially important during our budget process to ensure that we can create the most effective budget for the new biennium.

Ceasing enrollment in the Medicaid expansion group will help take the program back to its roots: helping those who truly need state assistance. Freezing these funds would help reprioritize the funds we have to cover Ohioans most vulnerable populations, including the aged, disabled, and children. The individuals already covered in the expansion population will remain covered.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 99. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.