

Ohio General Assembly

77 South High Street
Thirteenth Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-1482
Rep71@ohiohouse.gov



Committees

Aging and Long-
Term Care
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Ways and Means

Mark D. Fraizer
State Representative, District 71

Good afternoon Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health committee. Thank you for hearing HB 727, expanding eligibility for Medically Handicapped Children to individuals up to age 26.

This is a very simple piece of legislation prevents the the health director from excluding handicapped individuals ages 18-26 from medical and financial eligibility requirements for the existing program for medically handicapped children. The 21-26 age range is when the patients are currently aged-out and often times are in need of medical treatments that cannot occur prior to age 21. These individuals are often compounded with the additional complexities of living in poverty, medically handicapped, and with limited support because of their age. This proposed legislation will assist for these individuals who are currently unable to receive medical benefits but will greatly benefit by revising this age threshold. By allowing individuals currently in the program to become eligible for additional benefits as they age, this legislation will prevent a drastic fiscal impact to the state of Ohio.

Thank you Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking member Boyd and members of the House Health Committee, I will now hand it over to Representative Clites, who is my joint sponsor and brought this idea forward to me, and I am privileged to partner with her on this subject.