

**Testimony on H.B. 166: Main Operating Budget for FY 2020 - 2021 Senate Finance
Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid**

May 16, 2019

Good morning Chairman Hackett and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid;

My name is Mildred, I am a member of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality, (NOBLE).

I enrolled in the Medicaid Expansion program in 2014. Prior to that I had insurance with Metro Health. In 2015 with Medicaid I was able to change over to University Hospitals and found a new primary provider. My primary provider, Nurse Practitioner Rodriguez felt a lump in my neck and I was formally diagnosed with thyroid cancer in January of 2018. In March 5, 2019 I had the lump removed. My hospital stay was only to last 2-5 days; however, my wounds took a significantly longer time to heal. Thus, I ended up being hospitalized for 3 weeks. Inadequate coverage would have placed me in grave danger due to complications such as excessive drainage, etc. My treatment continued even after my discharge. I had an iodine flush to ensure that all the cancer was removed from my body. Afterward, I had to stay in a hotel for 3 days because the iodine treatment is considered hazardous to young children, and at the time I was living with my sister whose grandson was under 2 years of age.

I do not know what I would have done without Medicaid Expansion. Thus, I testify in front of you today on behalf of low-income Ohioans, emphasizing the importance of Medicaid, Medicaid Expansion and adequate affordable healthcare in general. I ask the legislature today to consider the importance of funding Medicaid Expansion in full without qualifications during this cycles budget deliberation. Thank you.