**Sponsor Testimony**

**Senate Resolution 303**

**Health, Human Services and Medicaid**

**Chair, Senator Dave Burke**

**Wednesday, September 25**

Good afternoon, Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of Senator Kenny Yuko for Senate Resolution 303, which would reaffirm the Ohio Senate’s support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA, has protected more than 130 million people with preexisting conditions, eliminated lifetime caps on coverage and extended health care access to 17 million Americans through the expansion of Medicaid coverage. In Ohio, more than 1.26 million people have received coverage through the Medicaid expansion since its implementation in 2014.

These measures have improved the lives of our constituents, in every Senate district across the entire state. If the ACA is overturned or dismantled, it would leave millions of Americans without any health insurance coverage. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 27% of all adults have a pre-existing condition that would have led to a denial of insurance before the ACA. The Medicaid expansion program lowered the uninsured rate in Ohio by 18.3%. These are measurable improvements in the lives of Ohioans made possible by the ACA.

We are grateful for the improvements in health and quality of life the ACA has brought to Ohio. However, we cannot take these gains for granted. In 2018, the number of people in the United States without health insurance rose by 1.9 million people compared to 2017. The uninsured rate jumped from 7.9 percent in 2017 to 8.5 percent in 2018. We know that health insurance saves lives, protects children and families, and strengthens our communities. This Senate Resolution would publicly reaffirm our commitment to continuing the important work of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by ensuring that all Ohioans have access to comprehensive and affordable health insurance.

Chairman Burke and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention and consideration of this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.