

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice-Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Families, Aging and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 212. HB 212 would expand the eligibility for the Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Treatment Program to individuals up to age 26, over the next five years. The current age limit is 21 years old.

I'd first like to explain CMH. CMH has three programs to help children with special healthcare needs: diagnostic, treatment and service coordination. HB212 will only impact one of the programs; the treatment program. So I will focus on that program. To be eligible for the treatment program your child must have a qualifying diagnosis such as: cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, hemophilia, sickle cell, spina bifida, juvenile arthritis, congenital heart disease, severe vision disorders and extreme hearing loss. Once your child is diagnosed with a qualifying condition you must prove you permanently live in Ohio, get your care through a CMH approved provider and meet financial eligibility requirements. I've also included in my testimony the CMH Program Brochure to answer any other questions.

I had served on the CMH Parent Advisory Council from 2005 until 2018 when I joined the House and I'm back on PAC now, so my data comes from reports we receive on the council. On average about 800 young adults age out of the treatment services each year. It is estimated that each child on insurance coverage costs CMH \$1,200 a year. CMH children have received assistance from the program most of their lives. These young adults have high out of pocket costs and needs that aren't covered by Medicaid or Health Insurance Plans. As you will hear and see in testimony the financial burdens are extremely difficult as more health plans shift the cost burden onto patients. Having a chronic illness means maxing out your out of pocket maximum year after year, lengthy appeals that delay access to care, or denials of necessary drugs or care that only a safety net program ran by providers that are looking at the whole care plan can address. A heavy burden for a young adult. CMH assists families as a payer of last resort for medical treatments not covered by insurance or Medicaid and high out of pocket costs. CMH has nurses that oversee the gaps in coverage and provide direct resources to the patient.

Under current federal and state law, young adults can stay on their parents' private insurance coverage until age 26. However, the current limit for the CMH program creates a gap of 5 years for these young adults dealing with a chronic health condition. This gap can cause young adults to struggle to access and afford necessary treatment and care, which can lead to skipped appointments and missed medications. Which will lead to more expensive healthcare costs.

We can support Ohio's future by ensuring young adults can access affordable treatment and care while establishing themselves in a career path and working towards their goals.

Thank you for your consideration of support to HB212. I am happy to answer any questions now or after the other parents testify.

How can families find a CMH-approved provider for their child?

Call your local health department or go to:
www.odh.ohio.gov

- Click "A-Z INDEX" in upper right corner
- Click "Children with Medical Handicaps"

What conditions are eligible for CMH?

Some of the eligible conditions are:

- AIDS
- Cancer
- Cerebral palsy
- Cleft lip/palate
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes
- Scoliosis
- Hemophilia
- Hearing loss
- Juvenile arthritis
- Metabolic disorders
- Severe vision disorders
- Sickle cell disease
- Spina bifida
- Congenital heart disease
- Chronic lung disease

Special health care needs may be caused by a condition a child is born with or develops later.

Which children are eligible for CMH?

Those who are:

- Age 0-21
- Permanent residents of Ohio
- Under the care of CMH-approved doctor (M.D. or D.O.) and who have or may have a chronic medical condition

Financial eligibility is required for the Treatment Program only.

How is a child enrolled in the CMH Program?

The child's CMH-approved doctor (M.D. or D.O.) sends a medical application form to CMH. Public health nurses can start the application process by referring families to CMH approved doctors. The parent, legal guardian or client who is at least 18 years old must sign the release of information and consent on the application form before CMH can act on the application.

How can families learn more about CMH?

Contact your local health department or go to:
www.odh.ohio.gov.



Children with Medical Handicaps Program

P.O. Box 1603

Columbus, Ohio 43216-1603

(614) 466-1700

1 (800) 755-4769 (Toll-free for parents only)

1 (800) 750-0750 (TTY)

HEA 714

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Do you have, or know of a child with a Special Health Care Need?

The Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH) may be able to help. (CMH was formerly BCMH)



What is CMH?

CMH, the Children with Medical Handicaps Program is a health care program in the Ohio Department of Health. It links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payments for services their child needs.

CMH supports the **Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)** where primary care providers and families work together to improve health outcomes and quality of life for children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

A Good PCMH:

- Knows its patients.
- Partners with and learns from children and families
- Uses a team approach for the care of chronic conditions, which includes planned, proactive visits
- Coordinates services
- Co-manages with families and specialists
- Assists with transitions
- Provides connections with community organizations
- Is satisfying for families, providers, and clinical staff

CMH works with doctors and other health care providers to ensure that every child with a special health care need will have a **PCMH**.

Your voice is Important to CMH

Parents are encouraged to attend the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings. These meetings are held four times a year across Ohio. CMH values parent input on the development and delivery of programs and services for children with special health care needs. Please contact BCMH@ODH.Ohio.gov for more information.

Three Ways CMH Can Help...

CMH has three programs to help children with special health care needs. All services must be given by CMH approved providers.

1 Diagnostic Program

Children can receive services for up to six months, from CMH-approved providers, to rule out or diagnose a special health care need or establish a plan of treatment. These services may include:

- Tests and x-rays
- Therapy evaluations
- Public health nursing services
- Visits to CMH-approved doctors
- Up to five days in the hospital

2 The Treatment Program

Children can receive services for one year, from CMH-approved providers, for treatment of an eligible condition. Both medical and financial eligibility are required for the Treatment Program.

- Laboratory tests and x-rays
- Physician visits
- Prescription medications
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Surgeries and hospitalizations
- Public health nursing services
- Therapies
- Service coordination

All services must be related to the child's eligible condition. If the child remains eligible, services may be renewed each year until the child reaches age 21.

3 The Service Coordination Program

This program helps families locate and coordinate services for their child. This is a limited program available to children, with specific conditions, who are seen by a team of providers at hospitals approved by CMH for service coordination.

