

Chair Caruthers, Ranking Member Liston, members of the committee my name is LaToya Stone, I am from Akron, OH I am here with NOBLE.

I am here to talk about Medicaid. I more specifically want to talk about my experience with being pregnant on Medicaid and the care I received. I would also like to offer some suggestions on how to improve the service for other pregnant women of color.

I currently have Medicaid as my health insurance option and have been covered by Medicaid through my pregnancies. I now have four kids. My first-born son was born through a vaginal delivery. Since my son my three daughters have all been delivered through a C Section.

During one of my pregnancies I communicated with doctors on many occasions letting them know that I preferred to give birth vaginally and I felt disregarded and forced into having a C section.

I will say that some of the doctors in the Medicaid program are good but there are many doctors that need more cultural competency training. They blatantly refuse to listen to black women. Thus, I would like to see changes here as well as for the State to fund Doulas through Medicaid.