



CHARITABLE HEALTHCARE NETWORK

Ohio: Stronger. Healthier. Together.

Jason Koma, MHA
Senate Finance Committee
Testimony on HB 33 (SFY 2024-25 Operating Budget)
May 25, 2023

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino and Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 33. I am Jason Koma, the executive director of the Charitable Healthcare Network.

The Charitable Healthcare Network is the statewide association of free and charitable providers in Ohio. Formerly known as the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, our mission is to support our 53 members by working to strengthen and ensure high-quality healthcare for people who are vulnerable in our state. Our membership is diverse including free clinics, charitable clinics, rural health centers, charitable pharmacies, and counseling centers, among others. As of 2023, our 53 member organizations serve 70 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Our member clinics and charitable providers are the backbone of the safety net in Ohio. When an uninsured individual has nowhere else to go, we are there for you. That is why, Ohio's free clinics and charitable providers are an essential part of the healthcare delivery system.

We also could not do this without the support of the Ohio General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Health and the governor's office. This support includes general revenue funds through the Free Clinic Safety Net line item with the Ohio Department of Health. We are extremely thankful to the Ohio House for increasing this line item from \$1.5M to \$1.75M per fiscal year. This funding is a lifeline to our members and this increase means that many clinics will be able to keep their doors open and others can expand their reach.

With the support from that funding, in 2022, Ohio's free and charitable providers delivered nearly 560,000 healthcare services – primary care, specialty care, prescriptions, education and social services, among others, and that care was valued at approximately \$200M worth of healthcare services delivered to the most vulnerable in our state for little to no cost to those patients. These providers cannot do so without your support. Please continue to partner with CHN to keep our healthcare safety net as strong as possible. We are asking for your continued support of the Free Clinic Safety Net Services line item as passed by the Ohio House.

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I'd like to close with two quick stories from those who we helped in 2022:

We recently were able to provide antihypertensive and insulin therapy to a young pregnant woman that recently lost her job due to her health conditions. As a result of losing her job, she also lost her insurance coverage. The patient had uncontrolled blood pressure and gestational diabetes that put her and her unborn child at great risk for serious complications. Her husband has early-onset Parkinson's disease and therefore has difficulty driving making transportation a barrier to care. We were able to provide these critical medications and deliver them to the patient in a timely manner in a situation in which the patient otherwise would not be able to receive these medications.

There is nothing worse than watching your child be in pain and not be able to fix it. For Corinne, that was what brought her to our clinic. Her 12-year-old son had a very bad tooth infection, and she could not find a dentist who accepted his Medicaid insurance and could see him quickly. When we told her to bring him right over, she started crying on the phone, unable to believe that we were offering her what she was desperately looking for. While the dentist worked to eliminate the pain for her son, Corinne filled out our Social Determinants of Health survey. We learned that she had no job or insurance for herself, she and her son were facing eviction, and they did not have enough food. This is where our clinic makes a difference: we did more than fix the toothache, we were able to work with housing providers to keep them in their home, we sent them home with food from our emergency food pharmacy and a connection to a more sustainable food pantry in the community, we enrolled Corinne in Medicaid, and we got her an appointment with a medical provider the next day. She had been neglecting her own health because she could not afford to pay out of pocket for her care. When she left her appointment, it was with more than a diagnosis and a prescription. She walked out with all the testing supplies and medications she needed to manage her chronic conditions, health insurance to cover her needs, an appointment with our psychiatric nurse practitioner to help her manage her anxiety, and a lot more hope than she had walked in with.

These are just two brief examples of lives saved based on the work of the members of the Charitable Healthcare Network. That work cannot happen without your support.

Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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CHARITABLE HEALTHCARE NETWORK

ABOUT

WHO WE ARE:

Charitable Healthcare Network's (CHN) purpose is to be the voice and connector for Ohio's free and charitable providers by providing resources, education, and advocacy to strengthen and ensure quality health care for vulnerable individuals across our state.

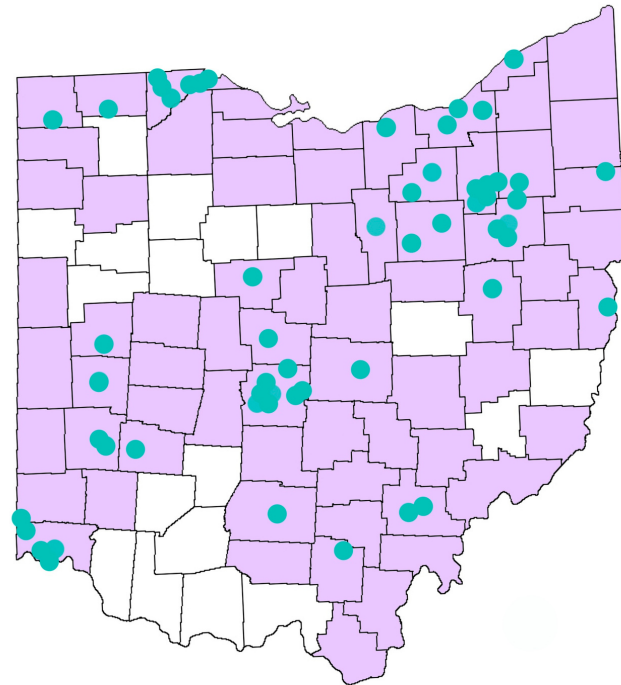
OUR MEMBERS:

Our membership is diverse including free clinics, charitable clinics, rural health centers, charitable pharmacies, counseling centers, and more! As of 2023, our 53 member organizations serve 70 of Ohio's 88 counties.

THE VALUE OF CARE



	2022 Services	Value of Services
Primary Care Visits	35,463	\$14,397,978.00
Specialty Visits	12,302	\$10,210,660.00
Vision Visits	7,155	\$2,547,180.00
Dental Visits	15,866	\$7,234,896.00
Behavioral Health	5,329	\$1,513,436.00
Social Services/ Case Management	10,839	\$1,820,952.00
Pharmacy Education	63,654	\$11,139,450.00
Lifestyle/ Prevention Education	15,455	\$2,318,250.00
Disease Management Education	21,630	\$3,655,470.00
Prescriptions	285,301	\$99,855,350.00
Laboratory Tests	69,661	\$20,898,300.00
Diagnostic Tests	14,855	\$22,282,500.00
TOTAL	557,510	\$198,452,522.00



■ Clinic Locations
■ Counties Served

STATEWIDE IMPACT & SUPPORT

CHN works directly with ODH to support free and charitable providers in Ohio with general revenue funds through the Free Clinic Safety Net line item. In the budget passed by the Ohio House, this funding was increased by \$250K to \$1.75M per fiscal year. With support from current state funding, Ohio's free and charitable providers delivered nearly \$200M worth of healthcare services to the most vulnerable in our state in 2022. It is essential that Ohio continues to partner with CHN to keep our healthcare safety net as strong as possible. We are asking for your continued support of Free Clinic Safety Net Services and the \$1.75M passed by the Ohio House.

PATIENT IMPACT

"We were able to provide antihypertensive and insulin therapy to a young pregnant woman that recently lost her job due to her health conditions. As a result of losing her job, she also lost her insurance coverage but is currently in a coverage gap as she navigates enrolling in Ohio Medicaid. The patient had uncontrolled blood pressure and gestational diabetes that put her and her unborn child at great risk for serious complications."

Sarah Adkins, Executive Director of Rising Suns Charitable Pharmacy

CONNECT WITH A FREE CLINIC

CHN is available as a resource for your office to help answer questions from your constituents seeking services from a free or charitable provider. Please contact us at **(614) 914-6458** and we can help connect anyone to this care. Also, our website www.charitablehealthcarenetwork.org has an interactive map of all these providers in Ohio.