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Senate Medicaid Committee
Senate Bill 33—Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Chairman Romanchuk, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 33.

Senate Bill 33 would simply ensure that individuals be notified of the provisions of the estate recovery program when they enroll in Medicaid.

Additionally, a form including a signature of understanding from the applicant, or a person authorized to sign on the applicant's behalf, must be utilized to represent this notification.

The idea for this bill came from a constituent in Fairfield County, who was presented with a \$3,500 medical bill for two months of care upon the passing of his brother from cancer. This being the case even though neither the constituent, nor his brother, were notified of any cost to the services when they agreed to Medicaid and the services were discussed numerous times.

In fact, they even found that the Medicaid website for the services they received mentioned that ***“there is no cost to apply and there are no co-payments or premiums for the program”***.

This is tragic. When it comes to our society's sick and elderly, we should expect complete and full disclosure on medical programs they are being enrolled into, and the complete terms of those programs.

Since introducing the bill, my staff and I have talked to Medicaid numerous times about this issue. Though they have acknowledged their own concerns with how the information being shared is not fully transparent, we continue to interact with them to find an administrative solution. The purpose of this bill is to make it crystal clear that the State of Ohio will not engage in deceptive Medicaid practices.

Thank you once again Chairman Romanchuk and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.