

Rayanna Echols

Sister Sister Childcare First Steps

February 27, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 96

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on HB 96. My name is Rayanna Echols I am with Sister Sister Childcare First Steps and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

I am a hard worker and taxpayer. I live in _____. Raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance would allow me and many other parents to afford childcare while earning a livable wage and providing for our families. In my area, childcare costs roughly between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per child each year. That means for those of us who make \$16.00 an hour and work full time, nearly half of our salary is spent on childcare for one child. Without childcare assistance, I worry that I will not be able to work. I also want to ask that you remove work requirements for Medicaid. Like childcare, affording healthcare is nearly impossible even with a higher wage. Adding work requirements for Medicaid will cause 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

I ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially raising the eligibility rate for childcare assistance and removing work requirements for Medicaid.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Rayanna Echols
Rayanna Echols (Feb 26, 2025 09:15 EST)