

Alaa Makhashen

Centerville Early Learning and Training


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 Your Name, I work in a childcare program, and I represent the CEO Project. I am here to ask that you support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce and by removing work requirements to Medicaid eligibility.

As an invested worker in childcare in <sup>Centerville Early Learning and Training</sup>, I am one of many who nurture and care for our youngest Ohioans, but I and many others are living paycheck to paycheck. 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 annual salary would be spent on childcare for one child. Like childcare, finding health coverage is nearly impossible. Most small childcare businesses cannot afford to offer it to us. Work requirements for Medicaid will cause an additional 60,000 Ohioans like me to lose health coverage.

It is important to point out that while this budget is moving in the right direction, we need smart solutions to engage in more ways to bring about smart solutions to the problems facing childcare workers. Please support Ohio kids, families, and childcare providers by including the childcare improvements outlined in Governor DeWine's executive budget, especially investing in childcare as the workforce behind the workforce and by removing work requirements to Medicaid eligibility.

  
Alaa Makhashen (Feb 26, 2025 09:21 EST)

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