



March 10, 2025

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 1,700 people living with cystic fibrosis (CF) in Ohio, we write to thank you for your continued support and protection of the Complex Medical Help (CMH) Program. This program plays a critical role in promoting the health and well-being of Ohioans living with CF by filling gaps in coverage and helping ensure access to care and treatments.

About Cystic Fibrosis & the CF Foundation

Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that affects the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. There are close to 40,000 children and adults living with cystic fibrosis in the United States, and CF can affect people of every racial and ethnic group. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections. As a complex, multi-system condition, CF requires targeted, specialized treatment and medications. For those with CF, health care coverage is a necessity, and interruptions in care can lead to irreversible lung damage and costly hospitalizations—compromising the health and well-being of those with the disease.

As the world's leader in the search for a cure for CF and an organization dedicated to ensuring access to high-quality, specialized CF care, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation accredits more than 130 care centers nationally—including 14 in Ohio—that provide multidisciplinary, specialized care in accordance with clinical practice guidelines. As experts in CF care, the CF Foundation and our care centers understand the need for access to adequate, affordable health coverage, including through programs like CMH.

Complex Medical Help Program

CMH is a state program run by the Ohio Department of Health that serves as a safety net for children with special health care needs who meet medical and financial eligibility requirements. The program fills gaps in coverage related to the child's special health condition and acts as a payer of last resort to help families access the services their child needs. CMH also provides services for people over age 21 with cystic fibrosis, including prescription medications, medical supplies, special formula, and public health nursing visits. While CMH is a resource for some patients enrolled in Medicaid, it also helps privately insured CF families with their out-of-pocket costs, allowing them to maintain their commercial insurance and sometimes diverting them from public coverage.

CMH plays a critical role in promoting the health and well-being of Ohioans with CF, and we thank you for your protection of this program over the years. We ask that you continue to protect and fund CMH to help ensure people with CF can continue to access and afford the care and treatments they need to survive and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Dwight".

Mary B. Dwight
Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer
Senior Vice President, Policy & Advocacy
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation