

Opposing Testimony for House Bill 96

House Medicaid Committee

March 3, 2025

Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Amanda Fontana. I live in New Philadelphia, Ohio, where I am a college professor, social worker, school board member, full-time care provider, and, most importantly, a mother. I strongly urge you to remove two troubling items from Ohio's state operating budget. Both could have devastating impacts on Ohio families who depend on Medicaid expansion for their healthcare coverage.

Specifically, I'm asking you to remove the following two items:

- [Section 126.70](#) — This Medicaid Trigger Language could immediately end Medicaid expansion in Ohio if the federal government reduces its share of paying for the program's costs.
- [Section 126.10](#) — Under this Federal Mirror Language, if the federal government pauses, suspends, or reduces funding for a federal program, Ohio could do the same to any similar state-level program that uses federal funds.

I mentioned that I am a mother, I have three children, Lilli (23), Ethan (21), and Lena (10). My girls Lilli and Lena are both disabled. Lilli is severely disabled, requiring 24-hour care, and Lena has Autism. My girls and I are covered by Medicaid. However, Lena and I are now losing access to Medicaid for income eligibility purposes and will rely on the Medicaid Expansion to access affordable healthcare. I can only work outside of the home minimally due to having to care for my daughters. Since I can only work part time, I am not offered healthcare through my work. Having access to healthcare through the Medicaid Expansion is critical for my family's healthcare needs. According to the National Institute of Health, family caregiving significantly impacts the caregiver's physical and mental health. I am no stranger to this, as I am experiencing some of these associated effects on my health. It is necessary to have access to healthcare providers to support my physical and mental health, not only for me, but for my girls, who rely on me to care for them.

Please consider my testimony and remove these two harmful items from Ohio's operating budget.

By doing so, you would protect the 700,000+ Ohio children and families like mine who depend on Medicaid Expansion.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amanda Fontana