

Members of the House Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Maranda Osborne, and I am a registered nurse in Ohio. I am also a mother of two boys with autism who rely on Medicaid for their services. Today, I come before you not just as a healthcare professional but as a mother who fears for the well-being of my children and the countless other Ohioans who depend on Medicaid to survive.

Specifically, I'm asking you to remove the following two items from the state operating budget:

- **Section 126.70 (Medicaid Trigger Language):** This provision could immediately end Medicaid expansion in Ohio if the federal government reduces its share of paying for the program's costs. This would rip health insurance away from hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable citizens in an instant.
- **Section 126.10 (Federal Mirror Language):** This provision would allow Ohio to cut state programs whenever the federal government reduces, pauses, or suspends funding for a federal program. It is dangerously broad and could dismantle essential healthcare services beyond just Medicaid.

As a nurse, I have held the hands of terrified patients, unsure of how they will afford the treatments that keep them alive. I have seen mothers forced to choose between food and medical care for their children. I have watched patients delay life-saving procedures until their conditions become emergencies—costing lives and overburdening our hospitals.

As a mother, I rely on Medicaid to provide the therapies and services my sons need to thrive. Without these supports, their future is uncertain. My boys are not statistics—they are living, breathing children who deserve the opportunity to grow, learn, and participate in the world around them.

This is not just about policy. This is about people. Real families. Real children. Real lives on the line.

Ending Medicaid expansion will devastate Ohio's families, cripple rural hospitals, and create a healthcare crisis we cannot afford. Over 770,000 Ohioans depend on Medicaid expansion for coverage. Stripping it away would be an unconscionable act with catastrophic consequences.

I urge you to do the right thing. Protect Medicaid. Protect our families. Protect our communities. By removing these harmful provisions from the budget, you will be safeguarding the health and lives of hundreds of thousands of Ohioans.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.