

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

Alexander Chantilas. I'm 24, grew up in Cincinnati, and want to speak to the crucial importance of Medicare expansion for Ohioans of all ages. Roughly 25% of Ohioans are covered by Medicaid, 46% of which are under the age of 26, like me. I speak not only for the young people in the state, but for all 3,000,000 Ohioans when 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 cannot testify emphatically enough—Medicaid expansion saves lives, and to curtail it is to endanger the lives of thousands of Ohioans.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two dangerous items from Ohio's operating budget. Their inclusion is reprehensible.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Best,

Alexander Chantilas

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