

Ohio House Medicaid Committee

Testimony

Submitted by Rita Williams

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 Rita Williams. I am a resident of Ohio and a member of a very large extended family that reaches all corners of the state. 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 am 77 years old. Through the years I have seen so many different situations in families where access to health care, physical and mental, is imperative for the stability of the family. It's tough to navigate the health care system at times. People who are vulnerable need to have care, not roadblocks on their journey to wellness. I urge you to keep this in mind, as lawmakers who have the power to help the citizens of Ohio become healthier and thus more able to participate in our communities.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two destructive items from Ohio's operating budget.

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.

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