

I am submitting written testimony regarding the spending bill portions Section 126.70 and 126.10, the Medicaid trigger and mirror sections in the Governor's spending bill.

The Medicaid trigger bill would eliminate Medicaid for thousands of Ohioans, including children, poor people, disabled people and the elderly, if the Federal government spends even a small amount less. It would cause a strain on all hospitals. Medicaid is a valuable program for many Ohioans, and for some it is their only healthcare. For others it provides waivers for homecare that are invaluable to the persons served. Anyone who has experienced a catastrophic injury, or seen it in a family member, as I have, would vote against including this cruel proposition in the budget. Medicaid is quite literally life saving.

The Medicaid mirror bill would eliminate Medicaid coverage for anything the Federal government decides not to cover. This is written so broadly, it could take away anything, even other Ohio programs. Please eliminate it from the budget.

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony.

Debra L.Brinker