

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 Michelle Nemer. I am an internist and have served Ohioans as a primary care doctor for 8 years, first for 5 years in Cleveland at MetroHealth and now for almost three years in Columbus at Lower Lights Christian Health Center. 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:

- o 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.
- o 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.

In my time serving patients in Ohio for their primary care, I have seen how drastically their health can improve when they have access to preventative services, chronic disease management, and basic health care services. Medicaid allows many hard working Ohioans to stay healthy enough to provide for their families and be functional members of society. I fear that many people will lose access to health insurance and suffer needlessly if we don't defend Medicaid.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.