

March 3, 2025

To: **The Ohio House Medicaid Committee**

For Public Testimony March 4, 2025

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 Lisa Navracruz, and I am a Family Physician in Cleveland. I have practiced in Community Health Centers for over 20 years—both before and after Medicaid was expanded in Ohio. I strongly urge you to remove two devastating items from Ohio's proposed operating budget. Each would impact my patients, our most vulnerable neighbors, as well as our healthcare providers and systems in the state.

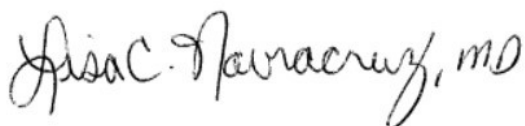
Specifically, I'm asking you to remove the following two items:

- [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.

Before Medicaid expansion in Ohio, we could not access xray studies or non-generic medications for the homeless patients I cared for. These most challenged people had care delays while they waited to gather identity documents and paperwork that could allow them to qualify for charity care at hospitals and from drug companies— and, if they were finally able to get these interventions they were more sick because of the delay. The moral injury of knowing that better care was available to other patients only blocks away from our facility led to a high turnover of our health center staff, and those of us who stayed spent hours of fighting bureaucracy when we should have been taking care of patients. Medicaid expansion has helped to facilitate our patients getting healthier, living better lives, and maintaining employment. A 2018 evaluation of the effect of the Medicaid expansion in Ohio confirmed these observations. Enrollees reported better physical and mental health, less financial stress, an increased ability to work, and an increased ability to care for family members.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two disturbingly short-sighted items from Ohio's operating budget. By doing so, you would protect over 700,000 Ohio residents and preserve thousands of healthcare related jobs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa C. Navracruz, MD". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Lisa C. Navracruz, MD, FAAFP, AAHIVS