

I'm writing to urge the Ohio House to remove two items from the state's operating budget. Both will have negative impacts on Ohioans who depend on Medicaid expansion, and both will have negative impacts on rural and small-town hospitals.

Specifically, I'm requesting the removal of the following two items:

Section 126.70 and 126.10. This Medicaid Trigger Language and federal mirror language could immediately end Medicaid expansion in Ohio if the federal government reduces its share of paying for the program's costs or pauses funding for any program.

Medicaid is not only insurance for low-income people: it's insurance for the hospitals who treat them. My partner is an emergency room physician, and he consistently treats individuals who have come to the ER as a last resort. Without public health coverage, people will still turn up at the ER— but hospitals will see even lower rates of reimbursement. These impacts could shutter hospitals in rural areas and small cities, and will drive up healthcare costs for everyone.

I'm concerned that killing the Medicaid expansion will harm low-income neighbors, and the rest of us, as well. Thank you for your time!