

Written testimony – Ohio Operating Budget, Medicaid Trigger and Medicaid Federal Mirror

Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify ahead of Wednesday's hearing. My name is Angela Abbatiello. I am a disable retiree who lives in Toledo. 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 no longer able to work, but I'm still appealing the SSDI process. Without Medicaid, I would, be bankrupt, bedridden or possibly dead. Because of Medicaid, I've been able to afford desperately needed care and still maintain some minimal quality of life--enough to still be able to drive my 82-year-old mother who can no longer drive and lives on Social Security. I contribute everything I can to my community and my economy, but I could afford to do neither of these things if I became uninsured.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two *[disturbing/dangerous/harmful/etc.]* items from Ohio's operating budget.

Please consider the harm you would do to me, to 770,000 other people like me, and to the medical employees and hospital systems throughout Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Angela Abbatiello

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