

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 Caroline Swenson, and I am a constituent in Dayton, Ohio. I am also a Doctor of Physical Therapy student at the University of Pittsburgh, with a deep commitment to ensuring that my future patients and current neighbors have access to essential healthcare. I am writing today because I am deeply concerned about two provisions in Ohio's state operating budget that could have devastating consequences for families who rely on Medicaid expansion.

I urge you to remove the following items from the budget:

- **Section 126.70** – This Medicaid Trigger Language could immediately end Medicaid expansion in Ohio if the federal government reduces its share of funding, leaving hundreds of thousands without access to healthcare.
- **Section 126.10** – This Federal Mirror Language would allow Ohio to reduce or eliminate state-level programs that use federal funds if federal funding is paused, suspended, or reduced—putting critical services at risk.

As someone pursuing a career in healthcare, I see firsthand how vital Medicaid is for individuals who would otherwise go without necessary medical care. Medicaid expansion ensures that Ohioans, including low-income families, people with disabilities, and those facing chronic illnesses can receive preventive care, rehabilitation, and life-saving treatments. Without it, these individuals would be left with few, if any, options.

Eliminating or restricting Medicaid expansion would not only harm vulnerable Ohioans but also place greater financial strain on hospitals and healthcare providers. Studies show that states maintaining Medicaid expansion experience lower uncompensated care costs and better overall health outcomes. (Source: <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/uncompensated-care-costs-well-down-in-aca-medicaid-expansion-states>) Without stable coverage, patients delay seeking care until emergencies arise, increasing costs for the entire healthcare system.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these harmful provisions from Ohio's budget. By doing so, you will protect more than 700,000 Ohioans who rely on Medicaid expansion for their healthcare needs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.

Sincerely,

Caroline Swenson