

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

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in written form, as my work schedule does not allow me to appear in person. My name is Daniel Miles. I have been an Ohioan since 2011 when I moved here to pursue an education at OSU, and the strength of the communities I have found in Ohio have kept me here ever since. I am testifying in order to strongly urge you to remove two concerning items from Ohio's state operating budget, which threaten the well-being of 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.

Our nation is currently seeing great uncertainty in the budget and operation of our federal government, which makes it vitally important for Ohioans to be able to depend on stability and security from our state government. As I have followed the news about possibly federal cuts to Medicaid, I have been extremely grateful to see that Ohio was not among the states with trigger language that would immediately end state Medicaid programs upon a cut in federal funding. Adding that uncertainty in this moment would be a step in the wrong direction.

With members of my own family benefiting from Medicaid, I have seen firsthand how that support can help people with chronic conditions to be vibrant and vital contributors to their communities and workplaces. And it is exactly people with chronic conditions, along with rural hospitals and their patients who will be harmed most if these clauses are included in the Ohio budget.

I ask you to dedicate yourselves to an Ohio budget that supports Ohioans and remove these two dangerous items from Ohio's operating budget. By doing so, you would save the lives of thousands of Ohioans and make our state and our communities that much stronger.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Daniel Miles