

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

My name is Erin Allen. I am an Ohio mom. Both myself and my three-year-old son are currently on Medicaid and benefit from Ohio's Medicaid expansion. I strongly urge you to remove two troubling items from Ohio's state operating budget. Both will 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.

If this were to happen, my son and I could lose our health coverage. I have been on Medicaid since I became pregnant with my son 3 years ago. As an unfunded full-time graduate student at Ohio State I was not able to afford student health insurance. If I had my Medicaid health insurance coverage the last three years, I would have had to drop out of school in order to afford health insurance for myself and my son, which would have had negative long-term effects on my son's quality of life. But because I benefitted from Ohio's Medicaid expansion, I was able to stay in my degree program and defend my dissertation in December. I will graduate in May, in part because I received support from this state's Medicaid expansion. Now my long-term job prospects will be better and my level of income will be higher. There are many people like me just trying to better their quality of life but simply do not make enough money or have stable work situations, which prevents them from having traditional health insurance. We need health insurance and rely on Ohio's Medicaid expansion.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two harmful items from Ohio's operating budget.

By doing so, you would protect the 700,000+ Ohio children and families who depend on Medicaid expansion.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.