

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 Jessica Riviere. I am a mom in central Ohio and an educator. 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.

Helping Ohioans care for their health has to be one of the most important duties of the state. These two inconspicuous items could have devastating consequences on hundreds of thousands of Ohio families. I'm lucky to have insurance through my employer, as most Ohioans do. But I'm the event that I lost my job, I am counting on the taxes I've been paying going to programs that help people in desperate situations.

Not only that, but this is clearly giving away power from the state of Ohio to the federal government. By requiring the state to follow actions taken at the federal level, we are eroding your ability to make the best choice for Ohio.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two unnecessary 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.

Sincerely,
Jessica Riviere