

Jessi Sadaka
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Dear Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the Ohio House Medicaid Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Jessi Sadaka, and I am a working disabled adult Ohioan who relies on Medicaid for my own healthcare access.

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.

Over 700,000 Ohioans currently rely on Medicaid expansion for their healthcare coverage. These are generally poor families who desperately need the assistance, and who would not have the ability to afford proper coverage otherwise. Healthcare is a basic human need and human right.

Also, in my opinion, setting up the budget language, in the above sections, as drafted, is far too broad and aggressive. Section 126.10 could be used to gut any Ohio program that receives federal funds. In these times wherein federal funding continuity is uncertain, Ohio needs to recommit to supporting our local citizens and families in need. I realize we also need to balance our own state budget, but this approach is not the correct way forward.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two harmful items from Ohio's operating budget. By doing so, you would literally be saving many people's lives, and many more livelihoods.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jessi Sadaka

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