

Hello. My name is Harper Ross, and I am an Ohio resident. I am writing today to urge you to protect Medicaid for the existing users of the service. Making changes that may exclude up to 61,000 people is unethical and will result in unnecessary deaths. Age requirements should be for Medicare services and not applied to Medicaid, employment requirements do not take into account that illness prevents people from working, and intensive physical and mental healthcare needs again do not account for the “lower-intensive” but long-term needs of chronic illness that prevents work and interferes with daily life. As someone who works in social services with refugees, I am devastated to think that my client’s 12 year old daughter with dangerously high cholesterol due to a genetic condition may be in danger of losing her coverage and thereby her life by our government considering her medication management to be non-intensive. For her refugee family, her medication management is exceptionally intensive and exceptionally necessary. We cannot be party to her death or the deaths of any other Ohioans by creating tighter restrictions on who qualifies for Medicaid.

Thank you,

Harper Ross