

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 Sarah Bowman. I am a homeschooling mother of four that has been caring for the well-being of my father as well for seventeen years. 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.

My father lived in my home for the last seventeen years. He is confined to a wheelchair, and his mobility has gotten to the point where my house is no longer sufficient for his needs. We recently moved him to a care facility, and that has been a huge relief for our family. He shares the facility with many patients currently on Medicaid, something we looked for specifically, as it is entirely possible that he will run out of money before he passes away. If Medicaid is gutted, not only will the folks depending on it directly be horribly impacted, but the people adjacent to them will be as well-- 59% of nursing home residents in Ohio depend on Medicaid, and the federal government has already indicated that it doesn't particularly care. If those facilities close, many other folks will be homeless and jobless as a result. I know that you don't wish to intentionally fill the state with desperate people, but that will be the result. Do not forget that a rise in poverty correlates closely with a rise in crime. I ask you to consider my testimony and remove these two *dangerous* items from Ohio's operating budget.

By doing so, you would protect my father and 700,000 others who depend on Medicaid or are employed because of it.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sarah Bowman