

Diana King-Testimony
House Medicaid Committee
March 5, 2025

Good evening Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker and members of this committee. My name is Diana King and I am a chair of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE). Our gives a voice to low-income and vulnerable citizens who are impacted by budget including essential services such as Medicaid. Too often these cuts result in negative changes for poorer Ohioans who are most dependent upon the state for their medical needs.

I am here today to ask you to support Medicaid Expansion and recommend abandoning the proposed trigger that will end Medicaid Expansion in Ohio if the federal match goes below its current level.

My husband suffers from a degenerative bone disease. Medicaid expansion coverage has been an invaluable resource in providing his medical care he needs. When his health allows him, he actively seeks employment. He is currently unemployed and without Medicaid coverage, his health would deteriorate even more. Because we live on an extremely fixed income, medical co-pay costs would be impossible to pay, and we would lose access to the healthcare that my husband desperately needs.

The optional services are also important to retain. My son, who also receives his health care through Medicaid Expansion, receives psychological care and medications that allow him to go to school and work. Without the health care coverage, he could not do that. Vision and dental care, which we could not otherwise afford, are also critical for our family as well.

Medicaid Expansion benefits the Ohio people because it is cost effective in that it provides preventative measures that will result in long term economic sustainability. Please continue the program as it is currently operating.

Thank you for your time,
Diana King