



Representative Jeff LaRe
73rd House District

Representative Sean Brennan
14th House District

House Bill 130 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Gross, Vice-Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 130, formerly, House Bill 681 of last General Assembly. The goal of this legislation is to ensure transparency and clarity for certain individuals and family members of individuals enrolled in the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program.

Ohio is one of only 18 states that pursue recovery for non-long-term services and support benefits. Furthermore, Ohio is second to only New York for recovery under this program, recovering more than \$270 million since 2019.

While this bill does not substantially change the Medicaid Estate Recovery program, it does make sure its scope is clearly defined in law and that those who are impacted made aware.

The bill aims to alleviate this issue by requiring notice in writing of what the program does and how it might affect recipients at the time of filling out the application AND in conjunction with the Medicaid approval letter they receive in the mail. Furthermore, this notice will include information about:

- How to file a complaint with the Department of Medicaid regarding the enrollee's Medicaid benefits,
- How to inquire about the status of Medicaid benefits, and
- How to disenroll from the Medicaid program.

House Bill 130 will also require the Department of Medicaid to develop a consumer-based approach to understanding the Medicaid Estate Recovery program in order to deliver the notice more effectively to prospective recipients of these Medicaid services.

Of note, this bill was intentionally drafted to not put extra burden on our local Job and Family Services. The notice required under this bill will be developed by the Department of Medicaid and included in the Medicaid application. The notice supplied with the approval letter will come directly from the state Medicaid office.

If passed, House Bill 130 will relieve Ohioans from having to face financial burden due to a simple misunderstanding of the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program.

Thank you all, again, for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 130.

We are happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.