

May 1, 2025

Attn. Chair Gross

Medicaid Committee

Dear Representative Gross and members of the Medicaid Committee,

I am an advocate for people with disabilities and their families. I have two children with developmental disabilities. My son has autism and my daughter has Down syndrome. I have collected numerous stories and have met with many of you about what Medicaid does for families in Ohio. For a person with autism, Medicaid is therapy, costly seizure medication and community access to social activities to discourage loneliness. For a person with Down syndrome, Medicaid is speech therapy and a Job Coach so she can be understood and can work in the community.

Medicaid work requirements are Medicaid cuts. People who rely on Medicaid for their health and community access will be kicked off the program for paperwork issues. People will suffer needlessly and this will be a disaster for Ohio as it has been in the other states that have instituted work requirements. We will have to hire more workers for the infrastructure for this failing program- that is waste for Ohio taxpayers.

Work requirements sound like a good campaign slogan, but in reality all this program does is harm the most vulnerable. As a mom who is constantly filling out paperwork for insurance or programs for my kids, I know families can't keep up with the constant paperwork that this kind of program demands. Employers want to hire people with disabilities and we should be using tax dollars to help foster that instead of hiring more Medicaid workers to gate keep important resources for families like mine.

We need to focus on families and helping people on Medicaid get the support they need while incentivizing employers to hire people with disabilities. Medicaid Work Requirements don't work and will cause harm to the disability community. Please stop the push for this failed program. Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion and for listening to families like mine.

Sincerely,

Jen Powers Alge