



**Ohio House of Representatives  
Medicaid Committee  
Senate Concurrent Resolution 5  
Kezia Ofosu Atta, Director of Advocacy  
American Lung Association, Ohio  
May 5, 2025**

Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee, my name is Kezia Ofosu Atta. I am the Director of Advocacy for the American Lung Association in Ohio. The Lung Association is the nation's oldest voluntary public health organization with a mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. We do this through education, advocacy and research.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition concerning Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 and its measure to urge the President of the United States to support the Ohio Department of Medicaid's request to implement work requirements for certain Medicaid recipients.

The American Lung Association believes everyone should have quality and affordable healthcare coverage. We are deeply concerned about SCR 5, which encourages presidential support for work reporting requirements to Ohio's Medicaid program and threatens coverage for thousands of patients with lung disease in Ohio. The Lung Association in Ohio urges Ohio House Medicaid Committee to oppose this resolution.

Work reporting requirements are not about work or volunteering, they are about paperwork, and otherwise eligible people caught up in the red tape could lose their healthcare coverage at critical times in their care. In 2018, Arkansas imposed this paperwork requirement on people enrolled in Medicaid. Before a federal court halted the state's efforts, more than 18,000 individuals who were otherwise eligible for Medicaid lost their healthcare in just seven months due to onerous paperwork requirements and additional bureaucracy. One of these patients, Adrian, found out at the pharmacy counter that he had lost his Medicaid coverage for reporting his work hours incorrectly – he couldn't fill his COPD medications, ended up in the hospital, and ultimately lost his

job because he missed too much work.<sup>1</sup> We don't want to see patients in Ohio go through this same ordeal. Similarly, Georgia's Pathways to Coverage Program, which includes work reporting requirements, enrolled less than 5,000 individuals in its first year, instead of the projected 31,000-100,000 beneficiaries originally estimated to be eligible.<sup>2</sup> As the state itself acknowledges, this policy may lead approximately 61,826 currently eligible enrollees to lose eligibility. For patients with serious or chronic conditions, a gap in healthcare coverage can disrupt access to regular care and medications needed to manage their condition, leading to exacerbations that require emergency department visits at a higher cost to both the patient and the state. This proposal contradicts the goals of the Medicaid program and jeopardizes access to care for thousands of Ohioans.

Most people on Medicaid who can work already do so. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, nationwide, 92% of individuals with Medicaid coverage under age 65 who do not receive Social Security disability benefits are either workers, caregivers, students, or unable to work due to illness.<sup>3</sup> **In Ohio, 64% of adults on Medicaid are working, Medicaid covers 1 in 5 adults ages 19-64, and 3 in 8 working-age adults with disabilities.**<sup>4</sup> Continuous Medicaid coverage can actually help people find and sustain employment. In a report looking at the impact of Medicaid expansion in Ohio, the majority of enrollees reported that being enrolled in Medicaid made it easier to work or look for work (83.5% and 60%, respectively).<sup>5</sup> That report also found that many enrollees were able to get treatment for previously untreated health conditions, which made finding work easier. Additionally, a study in *The New England Journal of Medicine* found that Arkansas's work reporting requirement was associated with a significant loss of Medicaid coverage, but no corresponding increase in employment.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Nagy, Leah. [With new work requirement, thousands lose Medicaid coverage in Arkansas](#). 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Chan, Leah. "One-Year Anniversary of Georgia's Pathways to Coverage Program Highlights Need for Reform," Georgia Budget and Policy Institute. July 2, 2024. Available at: <https://gbpi.org/one-year-anniversary-of-georgias-pathways-to-coverage-program-highlights-need-for-reform/>

<sup>3</sup> Tolbert, Jennifer et al. [Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid & Work: An Update](#). KFF. February 4, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> [MedicaidFactSheet.knit](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ohio Department of Medicaid, 2018 Ohio Medicaid Group VII Assessment: Follow-Up to the 2016 Ohio Medicaid Group VIII Assessment, August 2018.

Available at: [https://medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/2468a404-5b09-4b85-85cd-4473a1ec8758/Group-VIII-Final-Report.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT\\_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18\\_K9I401S01H7F40QBNJU3S01F56-2468a404-5b09-4b85-85cd-4473a1ec8758-nAUQnlt](https://medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/2468a404-5b09-4b85-85cd-4473a1ec8758/Group-VIII-Final-Report.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_K9I401S01H7F40QBNJU3S01F56-2468a404-5b09-4b85-85cd-4473a1ec8758-nAUQnlt)

<sup>6</sup> Benjamin D. Sommers, MD, et al. "Medicaid Work Requirements—Results from the First Year in Arkansas," *New England Journal of Medicine*. Published online June 18, 2019. Available at: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMSr1901772>

Terminating individuals' Medicaid coverage for non-compliance with these requirements will hurt rather than help Ohioans search for and obtain employment. The "exemptions" in this legislation are wholly insufficient to protect patients. And exemption processes inherently create opportunities for administrative errors that jeopardize patients' access to care. **No exemption criteria** can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

The American Lung Association in Ohio urges you to protect access to quality healthcare for Medicaid enrollees by opposing SR 5.

Sincerely,

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**American Lung Association**

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