

HB 410 Testimony

Chairman Gross, Vice Chair Baldrige, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the Ohio House Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit my supporting testimony for HB 410.

I am the President of Cleveland Right to Life. When we learned that Federal Medicaid funds could no longer be used pursuant to the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBBA) Section 71113, we were ecstatic. The only thing that dampened our excitement was the fact that the US Senate, for some unknown reason, decided to ban federal Medicaid reimbursements for only one year, instead of the originally proposed 10 years.

As they say in sports, we'll take the win. Since Planned Parenthood was defunded via the OBBBA, 43 Planned Parenthood facilities have closed. This represents 7% of the total number of 600 Planned Parenthood facilities. Three of those 43 facilities that closed were in Ohio, so even though abortion has recently been enshrined in our State Constitution, this incremental progress does signify hope. We must do whatever we can in Ohio to end the funding of Planned Parenthood (and other pro-abortion services) with Medicaid funds **PERMANENTLY**.

HB 410 is necessary because it will do the work that the OBBBA did not do. HB 410 addresses gaps and vulnerabilities in the federal approach that could allow state-level funding to continue or resume. HB 410 would enact a permanent statewide ban on Medicaid reimbursements to abortion providers, ensuring long-term defunding without reliance on federal action.

Ohio's Medicaid program is jointly funded by federal and state dollars. While OBBBA blocks the federal portion (~60-65% of Ohio Medicaid funding), it does not directly restrict state matching funds (Ohio's ~35-40% share). Without state-level action, Ohio could theoretically redirect its portion to continue reimbursing providers like PPGOH for non-abortion services, diluting the federal ban's impact. HB 410 closes this loophole by prohibiting all Medicaid payments—federal or state—from flowing to prohibited entities, regardless of service type.

Planned Parenthood claims that they don't just provide abortions, but also a range of "health care services". In the Greater Cleveland area, any of the services that Planned Parenthood supposedly provides using Medicaid funds, can easily be provided for free from a variety of different providers. Please see the table below. You'll note that the only area these pro-life/pro-family providers don't support is in the diabolical Transgender field.

Planned Parenthood Service	Description (PP)	Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers in Greater Cleveland Area Providing Similar Services for Free
STI/STD Testing and Treatment	Testing and treatment for infections like chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV; condom distribution.	Cleveland Care Center; Health for Her (STI education and screening)
Contraception Services	Birth control prescriptions (pills, IUDs, etc.), emergency contraception, counseling.	Veranova Health
Cancer Screenings and Prevention	Pap tests, breast exams, HPV vaccinations.	Veranova Health
Pregnancy Testing and Prenatal Care	Pregnancy tests, initial prenatal care, options counseling.	Lilli Women's Center; Cleveland Care Center; Womankind Maternal & Prenatal Center; Health for Her; Faith, Wellness & Pregnancy Center; ZOE Women's Center
General Women's Health Services	Well-woman exams, pelvic exams, menstrual management.	Womankind Maternal & Prenatal Center
HIV Services	HIV testing, PrEP/PEP prevention, counseling.	Health for Her (community referrals)
Primary Care (Limited)	General screenings (blood pressure, etc.), minor illness treatment, vaccinations.	Faith, Wellness & Pregnancy Center (medical clinic services, hot meal program)
Transgender and Gender-Affirming Care	Hormone therapy, counseling, referrals.	None
Other Reproductive Health Services	Endometriosis treatment, fertility education, miscarriage management.	Womankind (natural family planning, post-abortion counseling)
Health Education and Counseling	Sexual health workshops, reproductive decision counseling.	All listed centers (options counseling, abortion education, peer mentoring)
Referrals and Case Management	Referrals for mammograms, infertility, adoption.	All listed centers (adoption assistance, medical/housing referrals)
Advocacy and Support Services	Support groups, patient access advocacy.	All listed centers (life coaching, post-abortion healing, spiritual support)

HB 410 provides a state-specific backstop, insulating Ohio's program from federal court reversals and allowing quicker enforcement via state agencies like the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). It also avoids potential federal clawbacks of payments made during injunction periods, a concern that prompted some Ohio affiliates to preemptively halt Medicaid billing in August 2025.

In summary, HB 410 is a "necessary complement" to OBBBA to achieve enduring, ironclad defunding at the state level, preventing workarounds from the federal law's temporary nature and litigation exposure. As of now, with OBBBA's cuts already causing PPGOH layoffs (21 staff in September 2025) and clinic service halts, HB 410's passage could deepen these effects if enacted before the 2026 legislative session.

Cleveland Right to Life asks that our Ohio General Assembly actively protect the lives of the unborn by voting yes on HB 410. Taxpayer dollars should be used to promote life-saving therapies and treatments not for procedures that take life.