



HB 410 Testimony

Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members the House Medicaid Committee, my name is Dr. Jamie Byler, and I am Chair of the Ohio Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing more than 1,400 practicing obstetricians-gynecologists. I write to express our opposition to House Bill 410.

House Bill 410 punishes Ohioans seeking access to care in a reckless attempt to force an ideological purity test on providers. It weaponizes Medicaid funding to dismantle access to critical care for low-income Ohioans. By barring Medicaid payments to any provider associated with abortion services, House Bill 410 threatens to shut down clinics that deliver cancer screenings, birth control, STI treatment, and prenatal care to the thousands of patients who rely on them.

House Bill 410's reference to the unclear language in H.R. 1 is also concerning. H.R. 1 prohibits Medicaid reimbursement to nonprofit health care organizations that are "primarily engaged in family planning or reproductive health services", provide abortion services outside of the Hyde Amendment exceptions (rape, incest, or when the life of the pregnant person is at risk), and received more than \$800,000 in Medicaid reimbursements in 2023. The definition of "primarily engaged in family planning services" remains unclear, raising uncertainty about how other reproductive health care providers may be affected. By referencing this definition in House Bill 410, the legislature would be introducing this same uncertainty into Ohio law.

Abortion is constitutionally protected in Ohio, and Medicaid already restricts funding for abortion procedures. House Bill 410 will not change either of these facts. All it will do is restrict further access to care, create greater uncertainty amongst providers, and invite costly, time-consuming litigation.

House Bill 410 is bad for patients, providers and the state of Ohio. It is for these reasons we urge the committee to not pass House Bill 410.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jamie Byler