



**House Medicaid Committee  
House Bill 410  
Angela Newman-White, Executive Director  
First Year Cleveland  
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Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on House Bill 410. My name is Angela Newman-White, and I am the Executive Director of First Year Cleveland. Our mission is to bring together partners and community stakeholders to reduce infant deaths and support mothers and families so that every baby in Ohio has the chance to celebrate their first birthday.

Between 2017-2023, in Cuyahoga County, there were 759 infant and 595 fetal deaths. This means over 1,350 families experienced the devastation of loss. These numbers underscore a challenge we face across Ohio: ensuring that families have access to consistent, quality care before, during, and after pregnancy.

HB 410 seeks to restrict Medicaid payments to certain healthcare providers that also offer abortion services. While we understand the intent to ensure accountability in how public funds are spent, our concern is that the bill's broad language could unintentionally limit access to essential healthcare services for many Ohioans, particularly low-income women and families.

Many of the providers potentially affected by this bill deliver a wide range of critical health services that go far beyond abortion care, such as prenatal and postnatal care, family planning, cancer screenings, and preventive health services. These are the very services that help prevent poor birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality, issues that remain a serious concern in Cleveland and across the state.

If these providers lose Medicaid funding, it could reduce the number of available options for families who already face barriers to accessing healthcare. This is both an urban and rural issue – families in Cleveland and across smaller Ohio communities face growing barriers to healthcare access when providers close or lose funding. Fewer points of access often mean delayed care, higher costs, and worse outcomes for both mothers and infants.

We share your commitment to supporting Ohio's families. We believe that the most effective way to do that is by expanding access to comprehensive healthcare, not limiting it. I respectfully ask the Committee to consider the potential unintended consequences of HB 410 and its impact on community health and infant survival.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.