

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 410  
House Medicaid Committee  
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My name is Ariana, and I'm from Cleveland, Ohio — born and raised. Medicaid and Planned Parenthood have made so many things accessible for me, my family, and many others in my community. For that reason I write to oppose House Bill 410, which effectively defunds Planned Parenthood and acts as a backdoor abortion ban.

Growing up in the Mt. Pleasant area, there were many occasions when, without Medicaid coverage — both in emergencies and for routine care — my family wouldn't have made it. I've also seen how the lack of access to Medicaid has affected so many others. I've seen people suffer in silence because they're afraid of medical bills piling up. Others have paid hundreds out of pocket for much-needed STI testing, birth control, guidance toward prenatal care, primary care, and other vital health needs.

There was a time when transportation to appointments was covered by Medicaid for my family. Getting medication for my son, who suffered from severe asthma, was also covered by Medicaid. My son — now 18 years old — spent weeks at a time admitted to University Children's Hospital's PICU under close care.

As a young single mother of two beautiful boys, I could not have afforded that care without Medicaid. That coverage didn't just save money — it saved my son's life on several occasions. It gave me peace of mind, dignity, and the ability to take care of my son's medical needs and my family's well-being.

Ohioans deserve access to Medicaid and Planned Parenthood. These resources are vital for families in every community — and they must be protected and expanded. That's why I stand with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio — because we believe every person deserves access to affordable, compassionate healthcare, no matter where they live or how much money they have. Protecting Medicaid and supporting legislation like House Bill 410 means protecting families like mine — families who depend on that coverage for survival, not convenience. Bills like 173 and 190 also matter deeply because they defend our reproductive freedom and strengthen the healthcare systems that serve our communities every day.

Together, these efforts ensure that Ohio remains a place where people can get the care they need, make their own choices, and live with dignity. That's what I'm fighting for — not just for myself, but for every Ohioan who deserves a fair chance at health, hope, and healing. Please vote no on House Bill 410.