

Dear Medicaid Committee members,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB96, which seeks to discontinue Medicaid expansion in Ohio if the federal government reduces its share of coverage costs. As you know, Medicaid expansion is for people earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level. 138% sounds like it should be a lot, but it isn't: it's only \$21,600. Can you imagine living on \$21,600 or less? Medicaid benefits would certainly help, but being kicked off Medicaid because you earn too much (at < \$21,600!), and having health issues that you have to manage without Medicaid benefits seems impossible. People making less than \$21,600 need the benefits that Medicaid expansion provides. If you eliminate this program, or put more work requirements in place to eliminate people from the program or make it harder for them to prove their eligibility, people won't be able to afford the medical care they need and people will die. The thing is, Ohio CAN afford to provide this benefit. We can, if we prioritize those in great need. I urge you to vote no on this bill and to show that you care about those in our state who depend on you.