

Medicaid Committee

May 15, 2025

Testimony of Emily Spinelli

Chair Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston and the rest of the Committee, thank you for your time. I would like the opportunity to share with this Committee feedback that our organization, Northeastern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), has received regarding the impact Medicaid Expansion services have had on the lives of Ohioans. I would like to share with this Committee the testimony of Emily Spinelli from the Cincinnati area.

Emily is a 29-year old public librarian who remembers when she relied on Medicaid Expansion services for healthcare. These services gave her “critical access to healthcare while I was still a student full time and working part time until I graduated. “ She was able to afford a procedure that healed her chronic pain and improved her overall health and quality of life. Because of Medicaid Expansion she was also able to access dental and vision care for the first time.

As a public library employee, Emily sees the impact that access to mental healthcare coverage has on our communities and families every day. Medicaid services ensure that kids have access to things like ADHD medication which impacts their ability to succeed in school

and setting them up for success in their futures. Mental healthcare under these Medicaid services give parents access to therapy and interventions to build healthier families.

Ms. Spinelli advocates for Medicaid Expansion because she has seen the positive impact they have on children and families and she says, “When individuals are healthy they can thrive, their families can thrive, and their communities can thrive. When one person among us suffers, our whole community feels the effect.”

Thank you for your time, this testimony is being submitted by Che Gadison, organizer with Northeastern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), on behalf of Emily Spinelli.