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Dear Medicaid Committee members,
I am a Behavior Analyst who works with some of our most vulnerable youth. These are individuals with severe behavior that impedes their ability to learn, work, make meaningful connections with others and who are at risk for being adults who cannot contribute meaningfully to our communities. The mental health services they receive provide an opportunity to change their outcome. These youth have families who also have mental health struggles and who are themselves, struggling to hold down jobs and support their families. These challenges follow them generation after generation and mental health services focus on changing the course. For this reason, I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB96, the policy to discontinue Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Medicaid recipients are the most vulnerable citizens of our state. Medicaid expansion covers individuals with income levels below 138% of the federal poverty level. People making less than \$20,000 a year are not "taking advantage of the system." These are people with real needs for healthcare. By eliminating the Medicaid Expansion Program, or putting more work restrictions in the system, people will die. Please vote no and show that you care about the people of Ohio.

Thank you,
Megan Thomas, BCBA, COBA

