

Dear Medicaid Committee members,

This testimony is in opposition to SB96, which calls for discontinuing Medicaid expansion in Ohio. The harm this would cause is only outweighed by the significant cost.

Most of my clients and many of the people in the Miami Valley make less than 138% of the federal poverty level. That's about \$20,000 a year for a single individual – or the equivalent of working 40 hours a week at Ohio's minimum wage. Disabled individuals often legally make less than minimum wage. Single working parents have to miss work for their children, or to care for parents, or when the car they can barely afford to keep running needs work, or they get sick because they can't afford adequate medical care.

People trying to live on \$20,000 a year are not "taking advantage of the system." These are people with real needs for healthcare who cannot work, volunteer, raise healthy families, or otherwise contribute to society when we also eliminate health care access.

Ending Medicaid Expansion Program, or putting more work restrictions in the system, will force people to engage in more illegal and desperate activities – and cost our state tremendously for generations to come.

Please vote no and show that you care about the people and future of Ohio.

Thank you,

Ria Megnin, MA, LISW-S

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