

Testimony to the Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Seneca County Commissioner Bill Frankart
HB 96
June 5, 2025

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Bill Frankart, and I serve as a Commissioner for Seneca County. I appreciate the chance to testify on one of our county's top priorities in the state operating budget, which directly impacts the health and safety of our community.

I urge your support for re-instituting a House provision of the budget that was removed in the Senate sub bill that requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to submit for an **1115 Medicaid Waiver** that would allow federal Medicaid dollars to be used to cover eligible health care costs for individuals incarcerated in our county jail—particularly those who are pre-trial and have not yet been convicted. Today, counties are left to fully absorb these costs. These are often individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorders who would qualify for Medicaid if not for their incarceration status. Allowing coverage during this period would not only improve health outcomes and continuity of care but could reduce recidivism and emergency room visits after release. This is a policy rooted not only in our responsibility to provide medical care to incarcerated individuals but also in fiscal responsibility. We understand the desire to shrink Medicaid expenses for the state, but this is a key priority for counties in all corners of the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.