



Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Dr. Danielle Martter and I am Chair of the Ohio Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing more than 1,400 practicing obstetricians-gynecologists. I write to express our strong opposition to the recent amendments included in the Senate substitute bill for House Bill 96. Some of the included provisions, if enacted, will have detrimental effects on our communities and the individuals who rely on these healthcare services.

1. **DOHCD37: Abortion reporting changes**

The change to the reporting requirements that the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) must meet regarding minors who have abortions is deeply concerning. This requirement threatens the privacy and rights of minors seeking reproductive healthcare and could risk exposing their identity, something HIPPA was enacted specifically to guard against. Such exposure would subject vulnerable patients to scrutiny, stigma and potentially physical danger. We request this provision be removed.

2. **OBMCD32: Federal medical assistance percentage for expansion eligibility group**

The stipulation that if the federal government cuts Medicaid expansion funding, the state's Group VIII expenditure must be diverted to the budget stabilization fund or the Expanded Sales Tax Holiday Fund is deeply concerning. This measure prioritizes financial reserves over the health and well-being of our most vulnerable populations. We request this provision be removed.

3. **MCDCD73: Medicaid Group VIII eligibility redeterminations**

The new requirement for the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to conduct eligibility redeterminations for Group VIII enrollees every six months instead of annually was NOT in the Governor's proposed budget. Such a requirement will increase administrative costs and create barriers for individuals who depend on Medicaid for their healthcare needs. If containing rising Medicaid costs is indeed a goal of this legislature, then this provision should be removed.

4. **KIDCD54: Diagnostic ultrasound machine program**

The mandate for the DCY Director to purchase 3D diagnostic ultrasound machines and provide them through a grant program to certain entities is too restrictive. It would favor entities that do not provide comprehensive reproductive healthcare or respect the autonomy of women in making informed decisions about their health.

One particular concern regarding the significant spending on 3D ultrasound technology is the lack of established medical standards to ensure its clinical benefit. The bill creates no formal requirements mandating that these ultrasounds be conducted by certified sonographers or interpreted by physicians as part of a structured medical evaluation. Therefore, this provision should be removed.

If these four provisions are removed, ACOG believes House Bill 96 will have a much more positive impact on the health of Ohioans over the biennium.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Danielle Martter
MD, ACOG Ohio Chair