

**Testimony on SFY 26/27 Operating Budget**  
**Senate Medicaid Committee**

Good morning, Chair Romanchuk, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and committee members.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you today.

I am writing to you today as a constituent of your state, and as a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP) serving individuals with developmental disabilities in Ohio. I am deeply concerned about potential cuts to or changes to Medicaid, particularly those that could impact individuals with disabilities and the crucial services the agency provides.

Medicaid is a vital lifeline for people with disabilities, enabling them to access the care, support, and services they need to live full and independent lives in their communities. For many, Medicaid-funded programs, including those provided, are the way that they receive the assistance needed to work, learn, and participate in society.

As a QIDP, I understand firsthand the importance of Medicaid and its impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities. The organization I work at, Bittersweet Farms, enables participants to engage in many different kinds of tasks within our Day Program that are based on their individual goals and interests. Bittersweet's farmstead model brings together this diverse array of experiences, which fosters participants' independence while promoting the interdependent sustainability of the farmstead itself. They provide residential services to many individuals; both the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) and the waiver-based housing are provided with funding through Medicaid as well. The living arrangements offered foster close relationships between housemates, with many of the residents becoming like family to one another. Person-centered care is at the forefront of the mission for each resident and structured support for the communal life of the home as a whole. There is a heavy reliance on Medicaid to provide these vital services, and any cuts or changes to the program would have a devastating impact on these individuals and their ability to live with dignity and independence.

Specifically, I am concerned about how funding cuts to Medicaid could lead to reduced services, longer waitlists, increased costs for individuals, and potential strain on the disability services workforce.

I urge you to strongly oppose any measures that would weaken or cut Medicaid funding for people with disabilities. Medicaid is not just a program; it is a lifeline for individuals with disabilities, and we must work together to ensure it continues to provide the necessary support for them to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Crawfis, QIDP