

Diane Howard-Testimony

Medicaid Committee

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Chair Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston and the rest of the committee, thank you for your time. My name is Diane Howard and I am one of the co-chairs of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality. I'm also a CMHA commissioner for Cuyahoga county appointed by Mayor Bibb. I am a senior citizen of Ohio who has 21 grandchildren and 49 great grandchildren.

I am here today to advocate for Medicaid expansion programs and the rejection of any proposed cuts to these programs and I am concerned with the effect that cutting Medicaid expansion funding will have on adult protective and senior services. As we get older, their quality of life has become more dependent upon home-based long-term care services that provide for transportation, daily living assistance, meal prep and more. Many long term caregivers are reliant on Medicaid expansion for healthcare. By cutting Medicaid expansion adult protective services will suffer because of the reduced access to staff due to challenges acquiring healthcare coverage.

By cutting Medicaid expansion programs, long-term care, as well as, Adult Protective Services will suffer because of reduced access to vital services and reduced staffing will increase the risk of neglect or abuse. Decreased reimbursement rates for providers and their

employees will lead to lower pay rates for home-care providers. These lowered pay rates will cause reduced capacity and heavier caseloads creating increased burdens on the staff.

By cutting Medicaid funding to expansion programs the unintended consequences will be many will affect the quality of life that these Ohioans receive.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give my testimony to this committee.