

Che Gadison Testimony

Finance Committee- HB 96 Medicaid Expansion

May 15, 2025

Good afternoon Chair Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston and members of the Medicaid Committee.

My name is Che Gadison and I am a member of the Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality. I am here to advocate for all Ohio Medicaid recipients and to ask this committee to make zero funding cuts to these programs. If saving the state money is truly the priority of this committee, then it makes sense to increase investments in preventative care services, properly compensating medical providers and increasing the amount of mandatory services that are offered. This type of investment may be initially more costly, but they will save the state money in the long term.

Making an investment to provide better quality services and increase services offered, will lead to better quality health overall for Medicaid recipients with less doctors visits and decreased need for medical services in some cases. This will increase labor productivity by decreasing the need for absences from work due to illness. This will also have the positive impact of longer life spans. Increased life spans results in increased longevity within the workforce.

Improving the quality of medical providers and services will address some issues of Medicaid waste and fraud. Most Medicaid providers receive minimal compensation and have difficulty receiving reimbursement from the state for their services. As a result, some doctors will perform unnecessary tests, order repeat tests or provide shoddy services to ensure the patient will return and can be billed again. This impacts the quality of services patients receive and opens the door to billing fraud. The irony is that often it is Medicaid recipients who are blamed and assumed to be the ones committing this fraud and waste.

As I conclude, I would like to point out another irony. Both the members of this committee and the Medicaid expansion recipients receive healthcare that is funded by the state and

paid for with Ohioans tax dollars. One group has access to the highest tier quality provider care and services, while the other group often struggles to find quality providers and services and their coverage is always threatened with budget funding cuts. Medical healthcare coverage is not a luxury or handout. So if members of this committee are not willing to cut EVERYONE's state funded medical coverage, then members of this committee should not cut ANYONE's state funded medical coverage.

Thank you for your time.