

## **Senate Medicaid Committee**

**May 15, 2025**

### **Testimony**

Chair Romanchuk, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston and Members of the Senate Medicaid Committee. My name is Teralawanda Aaron.

I am speaking today of the importance of protecting Medicaid Expansion in Ohio by removing the “trigger” language in the Senate budget. I want to illustrate this by telling you my story.

I am 55 years old and until 2020 I had been consistently employed since I was 16 years old when I then worked at McDonalds. In 2020 I was employed as a program coordinator for the after-school programs at Friendly Inn Settlement House and Sarah Harper Recreation Centers in Cleveland until I was laid off due to COVID restrictions. Soon after I contracted COVID myself and became extremely ill. I had an extended stay in the hospital followed by ongoing rehabilitation and home care.

I am working myself back to a fairly healthy state where I can become employed again soon, which I am very anxious to do. The progress I have made has been substantially due to the health care and health care resources that I have received through Medicaid Expansion. This has included medications, oxygen, doctor visits, therapies, home care, and medical equipment.

Having health care through Medicaid Expansion has made my life sustainable again.

My story is but one example why it is so critical that that we must remove the “trigger language” in the state budget so that we can ensure that single adults without dependent children like me can continue to have health care coverage.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell my story.