

Testimony: May 15, 2026

Ohio Senate Medicaid Committee

Chair Romanchuck, Vice Chair Huffman and Ranking Member Liston, thank you for this opportunity to testify before the Ohio Senate Medicaid Committee. My name is Gail Long and I represent Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality/NOBLE. NOBLE is a coalition of organizations and individuals whose mission is to bring the voices of low-income Ohioans to the State Biennium Budget process. We are here today to let you know that of the many programs that the State of Ohio supports and directs, Medicaid is one of the most important. Medicaid saves the lives of thousands of children and adults as well as makes it possible for people to continue working as they struggle with chronic illnesses. Over three (3) million of our fellow citizens receive Medicaid in the State and 770,000 of them receive Medicaid Expansion.

We ask that you protect Medicaid Expansion by not including “trigger” language in your version of the budget. As currently worded, this would end health care coverage for 770,000 Ohioans immediately after the Federal Budget is passed with any reduction in reimbursement for this program. In addition, we ask that you maintain the current relationship between JMOC and the Department of Medicaid. The Director of Medicaid, as all other cabinet members do, should report to the Governor directly.

In addition, we oppose any attempt to repeal continuous enrollment for children from birth to 3 years of age.

Ohio has one of the most comprehensive programs in the Country and we all should be proud of this – you as legislators and all of us as tax payers.

Thank you for listening...