

Chair Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Erin Prestwich. I am live and vote in Toledo, Ohio. I am a professor in the Pharmacy School at the University of Toledo.

I am here to urge the committee to remove two harmful items from the House-passed operating budget: the Medicaid Trigger Language (section 5163.04) and the Federal Mirror Language (Section 126.10).

Medicaid is a critical, trusted source of coverage for almost 80 million Americans, including 36.8 million children.<sup>1</sup> Cutting funding would force states to restrict eligibility or reduce benefits, leaving families without access to preventive care and treatment – and leaving taxpayers on the hook for the subsequent, higher-intensity, higher-cost care that will inevitably be needed.

I am also concerned that cuts to Medicaid will hit our rural health care system, and those that serve those who don't have a lot of money. This will include hospitals like the University of Toledo. Medicaid cuts were previously considered, several rural hospitals warned that they could be at risk of closure, leaving communities without emergency rooms or maternity wards.

Hurting Medicaid would hurt seniors and nursing homes, too. Nursing homes also rely on Medicaid to cover 63% residents in Ohio.<sup>2</sup> Without this funding, many nursing homes will close. This means that they won't be there even for those who can pay full price.

Ohioans need healthcare. Medicaid is essential.

Sincerely,

Erin Prestwich, Ph.D.  
Toledo, Ohio

1. [https://familiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Medicaid-101-Fact-Sheet\\_Final-1.pdf](https://familiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Medicaid-101-Fact-Sheet_Final-1.pdf)
2. <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-of-certified-nursing-facilities-by-primary-payer-source/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>