

OHIO SENATE MEDICAID COMMITTEE

May 14, 2025

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 Amanda Fontana. I am a resident of New Philadelphia, Ohio. I am a Master level social worker, an adjunct professor at Stark State College, a member of the New Philadelphia City Schools Board of Education, and an independent provider through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. However, my most important role is being a mother to my three children, Lilli, Ethan, and Lena. My son, Ethan, just graduated from Bowling Green State University, and Lena is in the fifth grade.

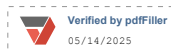
I strongly urge the committee to remove two dangerous and deadly items from the House-passed operating budget: the Medicaid Trigger Language (section 5163.04) and the Federal Mirror Language (Section 126.10).

My oldest daughter, Lilli, lives with severe disabilities, requiring 24-hour care by someone who is certified in American Sign Language (ASL). For this reason, I was able to become a certified provider (I am also the only provider in the surrounding counties certified in ASL) to be her caregiver since she is an adult. Not only does Lilli's life depend on Medicaid, but it is also how she can live at home with her family. Additionally, since I am Lilli's provider/caregiver, I am unable to work full time outside of the home. I am able to teach, but do not have access to healthcare, given that I am only able to work outside of the home part-time. Fortunately, as a caregiver to my daughter who utilizes a Medicaid Waiver, I qualify for healthcare under the Medicaid Expansion. I must be able to access healthcare so that I can continue to care for Lilli and also my youngest daughter, Lena. The language in this bill would drastically harm my family. We are the Ohioans that this directly impacts, and would cause a dangerous and, God forbid, a deadly situation for my children or me.

I ask you to consider my testimony and remove the Medicaid Trigger Language (section 5163.04) and the Federal Mirror Language (Section 126.10) from the House-passed budget. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amanda S. Fontana



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