

Ohio House Finance Committee
Public Testimony
April 15, 2015
by Pat Youngblood,
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My name is Pat Youngblood. I would like to share the stories of two women in the inner city of Cincinnati who could not attend today's Hearing.

First is Germaine Harris. Medicaid Expansion is very important to Germaine Harris. She said that after being uninsured for six years it is wonderful to be able to go to the doctor for routine care and checkups. She won't have to end up going to the emergency room now because she can get regular care. Germaine is doing job search and volunteering at the Contact Center in the meantime.

Next I would like to share the story of Coresa Jackson. Two years ago she was uninsured. Her health was bad. She has high blood pressure, thyroid disease, and severe arthritis in her left knee and left shoulder. She needed to take medicine each day for her high blood pressure and her thyroid. She had a hard time paying for the medicine she needs. She had to take medicine every other day instead of every day to stretch her medicine because she could not afford to get her prescriptions filled every month. She needed therapy for her arthritis, but she was unable to get it because she lacked health insurance.

When she was able to get on the Medicaid program through Medicaid Expansion, it was a great relief for her! She can take the medicine she needs each day for her thyroid and high blood pressure. She can get therapy for her arthritis and pain relief so she can function. Her health has improved so that she can look for work, do job search, and do volunteer work at a non-profit before she obtains a paying job. At 49 Coresa is too young for Medicare and Social Security.

I am asking you to keep Medicaid Expansion in the State Budget and help women like Germaine and Coresa.