



House Concurrent Resolution 20 Sponsor Testimony
House Health Committee
February 11, 2020
Representative Janine Boyd
9th House District

Good afternoon Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, and members of the House Health Committee. It's my honor to stand here before you today with my joint-sponsor, Representative Ghanbari, to share testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 20 which will urge Congress to standardize home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs to better accommodate military families with special needs.

Earlier in the 133rd General Assembly, we, the members of the Health Committee had the privilege of favorably voting out HB 287, jointly sponsored by Reps. Russo and Perales, which would require home and community-based services Medicaid waiver to reserve a portion of the participant capacity for eligible individuals whose family member is an active duty military member who recently transferred to Ohio.

Most military families move every 2 to 3 years, and some even more frequently. For a military child, it's possible to have moved 10 times by the time they're age 12, and to have changed schools 6 to 9 times between kindergarten and high school graduation – it's just what happens in the military.

There are currently 2.3 million children of active duty military service members enrolled in Tricare, the health care program for military personnel. Of those served by Tricare, approximately 200,000 rely on Medicaid for supplemental health care coverage for home and community-based services. While Tricare provides comprehensive health care coverage for most military families, the program does not meet the unique health care needs of all enrolled families.

Home and community-based Medicaid services are administered at the state level through waivers approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Because of this state-level administration, recipients lose access to services when moving from one state to another.

The Ohio House Health Committee showed support for active military members who move for their military duty, and now call Ohio home. When Ohioans are transferred to another state, I would want them to be treated with the dignity and support that we will be showing others when HB 287 is enrolled into law.

Making a career out of military service is not an easy decision. I commend those that dedicate their time to the service of this country. We should give to them what they sacrifice for us. By passing this concurrent resolution, we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, shall use our voice to advocate to Congress to standardize this practice so all military families in these United States of America can have peace of mind that their loved ones with special needs will be taken care of.