



## Columbus Office

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## Committees

Families, Aging, and Human  
Services

Health

Ways and Means

Behavioral Health and Recovery  
Supports

Chair Manchester, Vice-chair Cutrona, and the Families, Aging and Human Services committee, thank you for allowing us to testify on substitute HB 212. As my joint sponsor Representative Frazier mentioned this bill expands Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) coverage through age 26, from the current age of 21. The bill offers a gradual transition, each July increasing the eligibility by one year over the next five years.

CMH is a payer of last resort for young people with complex medical needs that began in childhood. Examples of qualifying conditions include conditions such as cerebral palsy, childhood leukemia, congenital heart disease, and insulin-dependent type 1 diabetes. These are devastating diseases that require costly care.

Under current federal and state law, young adults can stay on their parents' insurance coverage until age 26. However, the current limit for the CMH program creates a gap of 5 years. This gap can cause young adults to struggle to access and afford necessary treatment and care. We can support Ohio's future by ensuring young adults can access affordable treatment and care while establishing themselves in a career path and working towards their goals.

Sub. HB212 is narrowed from the original bill to ensure that the fiscal impact is predictable, and retains the programmatic focus on childhood diseases. As such, this bill provides continued treatment for individuals with previous diagnoses of a qualifying disease and does not include new diagnostic testing. As such the cost is modest. Each year it is estimated that approximately 300 additional youth would receive treatment at a cost of \$1300 - \$1500 each. This would be covered by the \$500,000 appropriation included.

CMH is a critical program that helps so many get the care they need. I hope you will join us in providing additional security for some of our most vulnerable children. We would be happy to answer any questions that you have.