

May 25, 2023

Senate Finance Committee

Medicaid Testimony

Chair Dolan, Co-Chair Cirino and Ranking Member Sykes and members of the committee:

My name is Gina Richardson, I live in Cleveland, OH and I came here today with NOBLE. The reason that I am here today to say I support all the Medicaid investments in the Executive and House versions of the Budget.

Ohio's Medicaid program delivers healthcare access and related community support services to more than 3.4 million Ohioans, including children, pregnant women, adults, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, across the life spectrum.

I currently have Medicaid as my health insurance and have had Medicaid for most of my life. I now have a fixed income which is low. I rely heavily on my Social Security Benefits; however, my Social Security Benefits were recently cut by \$91 dollars which has hurt me. The cut is not my fault and I have been going back and forth with the Social Security Office to get that money back. So far it has been angering, tiring and unsuccessful.

While there have been times where I worked and had Medicaid, right now for many reasons I am not working. I am so grateful to have Medicaid as my health insurance. I have scoliosis and I fell on my left side and have had serious issues with sciatica, lumbar issues and the list goes on. Medicaid has provided insurance to treat all my back issues, as well as for a serious surgery that I had a few years ago and the two c-sections I had with my daughters.

My favorite part about Medicaid is my care team with CareSource. I have had a few issues with CareSource as a provider, but my actual care team has been amazing. I have been able to keep the same team for years. The team checks on me regularly, they come out to see me. I also use the transportation provided by CareSource to visit my team and for appointments, which is another good thing.

The one big issue that I have with Medicaid is that:

- Over the counter medications are not included in my services. As I said before I have back problems which cause a lot of pain for me. I have been told by health professionals on many numerous occasions that I should be able to afford Tylenol and Ibuprofen and other over the counter medications. In most instances I have had to make many phone calls to get things covered.

I ask that you consider changing Medicaid to cover over-the-counter Medications. In addition, I ask that you expand Medicaid to more people. At NOBLE we support Medicaid being used to cover doulas, this would be awesome considering the pregnancies I have experienced as a consumer of Medicaid.

I am for the people, and I think that it is important that people are healthy and have good health insurance no matter what their income is or if they have a job.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about my experience with Medicaid. I can answer any questions you might have.