



Dear [Legislator's Name],

On behalf of Ohio Medicaid Matters, a coalition of the state's leading human services agencies, health advocacy associations and hospital systems, we're writing to reaffirm the critical role Medicaid plays in the lives of millions of Ohioans — and to emphasize the urgent need to preserve and protect this foundational program.

Medicaid is far more than a budget line item. It is a cornerstone of Ohio's health and economic security. Today, Medicaid covers some 3 million Ohioans, including over 1.2 million children, hundreds of thousands of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and those struggling with mental health conditions and substance use disorders. It is Ohio's single largest health insurer, anchoring care delivery in all 88 of our counties and serving as a stabilizing force for our hospitals and providers — especially those in rural and underserved communities.

As the 119th Congress considers policy changes through budget reconciliation, we urge you to oppose proposals that would upend Ohio's Medicaid structure through block grants, per capita caps, work requirements, eliminating or curtailing franchise fees and provider taxes, or changes to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). These measures would directly undermine the federal-state partnership that has enabled Ohio to design high-performing, cost-effective Medicaid programs that address the diverse needs of our residents.

Recent state-level developments illustrate what's at stake:

- **Trigger language in House Bill 96** would automatically end Medicaid expansion in Ohio if the federal match rate were reduced, placing health coverage in immediate jeopardy for **770,000 Ohioans**, including **362,000 in rural counties**.
- Proposals for **block grants and spending caps** would decouple Medicaid funding from real-world needs, threatening cuts to eligibility, benefits and provider payments — especially during periods of economic strain, public health crises or rising costs.
- **Work requirement waivers** risk stripping coverage from individuals facing barriers such as transportation gaps or caregiving responsibilities, which would harm rather than improving health or employment outcomes.

Ohio's Medicaid program is working. Through statewide collaboration, we've made tangible progress in care coordination, behavioral health integration and cost containment. **The 90/10 enhanced federal match for Medicaid expansion has allowed Ohio to make historic strides in reducing our uninsured rate, addressing challenges such as geographic health disparities, and responding to the opioid overdose epidemic.** Rolling back that support

would erase a decade of hard-won progress and inflict long-term harm on families, healthcare providers and Ohio's economy.

Medicaid is a jobs program, an economic stabilizer and a lifeline for vulnerable Ohioans. It reduces uncompensated care, fuels local economies, supports community health care, and helps children grow, adults work, and seniors live with dignity.

We respectfully ask that you stand with the people of Ohio by defending Medicaid from harmful restructuring or cuts. Let us work together to build on what is working, safeguard what is essential and protect those who rely on this program for their health, their livelihoods and their futures.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter. We welcome the opportunity to speak further or provide additional resources at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ohio Medicaid Matters Members:

- Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
- Access Center for Independent Living, Inc.
- Advocates for Ohio's Future
- Alvis, Inc.
- American Heart Association
- Brain Injury Association of Ohio
- Breaking Silences Advisory Committee
- Caracole, Inc.
- COHHIO
- Disability Rights Ohio
- First Year Cleveland
- Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association
- Groundwork Ohio
- Health Impact Ohio
- Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
- Hunger Network in Ohio
- Interact for Health
- Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati
- Lifecare Family Health and Dental Center
- Linking Employment Abilities & Potential (LEAP)
- Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition
- NAMI Greater Cleveland
- NAMI Ohio
- Neighborhood Family Practice
- Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition
- Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE)
- Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)
- Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers

- Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Education Fund
- Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
- Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
- Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Association of Foodbanks
- Ohio Association of Health Plans
- Ohio Autism Insurance Coalition
- Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Ohio Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
- Ohio Children's Alliance
- Ohio Community Corrections Association
- Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Ohio Olmstead Task Force
- Ohio Peer Recovery Organizations
- Ohio Poverty Law Center
- Ohio Provider Resource Association
- Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association
- Ohio Public Health Association
- Ohio School-Based Health Alliance
- Ohio State Medical Association
- Oral Health Ohio
- Philanthropy Ohio
- Policy Matters Ohio
- RISE Together Innovation Institute
- Signature Health, Inc.
- Sisters of Charity Health System
- Stella Maris
- Talbert House
- The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
- The Center for Community Solutions
- The Center for Health Affairs & CHAMPS GPO
- The Coalition for Healthy Communities
- The Hunger Network in Ohio
- The MetroHealth System
- The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition
- The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
- The Ohio Institute for Substance Use Disorder Excellence
- Thrive Peer Recovery Services
- UHCAN Ohio
- UC Health