

Statement on House Budget and Medicaid Expansion

"We are extremely disappointed that legislators are seeing Medicaid Expansion through a political lens rather than thinking first about the people of Ohio. We are disappointed that lawmakers would turn away billions of dollars that could enhance health and safety for our communities, reduce the burden of uncompensated care put on our businesses, protect hospitals and health care providers, continue the great strides being made to improve Medicaid in Ohio, and keep Ohio tax dollars working for Ohioans.

"Medicaid Expansion would extend efficient, life-saving health coverage to 275,000 of the neediest Ohioans, over half of whom are currently working but don't earn enough to afford coverage – including tens of thousands of veterans. It would bring in \$13 billion in new resources to Ohio that could create good jobs for Ohioans. It would save Ohio taxpayers over \$400 million in the next two years – resources that could be spent strengthening our schools, our communities, and our business climate. It would protect businesses from shouldering the costs of the uninsured, and from new tax penalties. And it would keep our hospitals healthy, particularly in rural areas where the loss of this funding could shut down the only providers accessible to many Ohioans.

"As the budget process progresses, our coalition will continue working vigorously to explain why expansion is the right policy for Ohio."

-Ari Lipman, spokesperson

Members:

Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
Care Alliance
Center for Community Solutions
Centers for Families and Children
The Center for Health Affairs
Council for Ohio Health Care Advisory
Cleveland Clinic
Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board
Cuyahoga Health Access Partnership
Doctors Organized for Health Care Solutions
EMH Healthcare, Lorain County
Greater Cleveland Congregations
Greater Cleveland Re-entry Coalition
The Gund Foundation
Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries
Mental Health Services, Inc.
Mental Health Advocacy Coalition
The MetroHealth System
Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
National Association of Social Workers Ohio
New Directions, Crossroads
Ohio Council of Churches
Oriana House
Parma Hospital
Recovery Resources
Sisters of Charity Health System
SPAN Ohio
The Free Clinic
UHCAN Ohio
University Hospitals