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Newly Formed Coalition Seeks to Preserve Medicaid Coverage for Ohioans

Ohio Medicaid Matters says cuts would harm Ohio families and threaten the state's economy.

A new coalition of some of the state's largest human services agencies, health advocacy associations and hospital systems is working to combat the threat posed to Ohio's economy and workforce by possible massive cuts to Ohio Medicaid.

The Ohio Medicaid Matters coalition, which includes more than 35 organizations, is urging the Ohio General Assembly and the DeWine administration to maintain flexibility and authority over Ohio Medicaid benefits as the federal government weighs cuts to the program. Acknowledging Medicaid as a critical driving force in fostering thriving communities, the coalition supports preserving coverage for as many Ohioans as possible.

"Medicaid is a foundation for health and economic stability," said Teresa Lampl, LISW-S, CEO of The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers. "Access to health care empowers Ohioans to work, contribute and fuel economic growth."

"By cutting coverage," said Julie DiRossi-King, CEO and president of the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers, "we risk harming our communities and losing valuable workforce — which will cost us more in the end."

Over the coming weeks, the coalition plans to launch campaigns aimed at detailing the potentially catastrophic ramifications of significantly cutting Medicaid coverage. Currently, over a quarter of Ohioans — about 3 million residents — rely on the program, including children, pregnant mothers, older adults, people with disabilities and low-income adults.

The Ohio Medicaid Matters coalition includes:

- Access Center for Independent Living, Inc.

- Advocates for Ohio's Future
- Alvis, Inc.
- American Heart Association
- Breaking Silences Advisory Committee
- Caracole, Inc.
- Disability Rights Ohio
- Groundwork Ohio
- Health Impact Ohio
- Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
- Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati
- Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition
- NAMI Ohio
- 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 Foodbanks
- Ohio Association of Health Plans
- Ohio Autism Insurance Coalition
- Ohio Children's Alliance
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Ohio Olmstead Task Force
- Ohio Poverty Law Center
- Ohio Provider Resource Association
- Ohio School-Based Health Alliance
- Ohio State Medical Association
- Philanthropy Ohio
- Policy Matters Ohio
- RISE Together Innovation Institute
- The Center for Community Solutions
- The Coalition for Healthy Communities
- The Hunger Network in Ohio
- The MetroHealth System
- The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
- UHCAN Ohio
- UC Health

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