



BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW OHIO

GOV. JOHN R. KASICH'S FISCAL YEARS 2016-2017 BUDGET

Statements of Support

William Considine, Chairman, Ohio Children's Hospital Association Board of Directors, and President & CEO, Akron Children's Hospital - The members of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association (Akron Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Dayton Children's, Nationwide Children's Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital and UH/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital) provide the highest quality of care to all Ohio children, regardless of the family's ability to pay. We take great pride in transforming lives by ensuring Ohio's most precious asset – our children – have access to the safest, most innovative care in the world, right here in Ohio.

We are appreciative that Governor Kasich and his administration are proposing continued funding and coverage for some of our most vulnerable citizens and preservation of access to care for children. We also applaud the Governor for recognizing and incentivizing programs focused on improving health outcomes and innovative health care delivery models.

We are proud of our collaboration with our patients, families and communities to provide the right care in the right place at the right time. We appreciate the Governor's efforts to create public policy that focuses on the needs of the children, adolescents and families that we serve.

We know that to ensure that we have a strong, healthy workforce in the future, Ohio's children must have access to high quality health care when they need arises. The only way to do this is through stable, predictable funding mechanisms for children's health care in our state, and we are thankful to the Governor for recognizing this in his proposed budget.

One in three Ohio children rely on Medicaid for health care coverage, and as the state's largest Medicaid providers with an average of 51 percent of our patients relying on Medicaid, we look forward to working closely with Ohio lawmakers, Governor Kasich's administration and, specifically, Ohio Office of Health Transformation Director Moody and Ohio Medicaid Director McCarthy to ensure that the state budget places a high priority on our state's children and their short and long-term health care needs.

Rita Soronen, President and CEO, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption - "We are pleased with the Governor's 2016/2017 budget proposal to enroll all of Ohio's children in foster care in Medicaid managed care. By assuring the best possible care and resources for our children, who, through no fault of their own, have experienced trauma, grief and loss and may have multiple physical and/or mental health care needs, we address a core human value – that we must take care of those most vulnerable. Ohio's leadership continues to show the rest of the country that compassion for all of our children combined with providing the resources necessary is simply the right thing to do."

Kristen Morris, Chief Government and Community Relations Officer, Cleveland Clinic - “Cleveland Clinic applauds Gov. John Kasich for funding Medicaid coverage for Ohioans. By maintaining Medicaid support for low income working citizens more people are able to get the right care, at the right time. Increased access to care results in better health outcomes, decreases job loss and disability, and a healthier economic future for Ohio.”

Thomas F. Zenty III, Chief Executive Officer, University Hospitals - We at University Hospitals commend and thank Gov. Kasich for including reauthorization of Medicaid eligibility in his budget proposal. The governor is showing strong leadership on the issue of health care access for the working poor.

Early results suggest the improved Medicaid program is working. More than 430,000 hard-working Ohioans now have access to the health care they need – access they didn’t have before last year’s Medicaid reform. Study after study shows that health insurance corresponds to better physical and mental health. And healthier, happier people are more productive. We all win.

Hubert Wirtz, Chief Executive Officer, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers - Governor Kasich’s SFY 16-17 executive budget recommendation maintains health care coverage through Ohio Medicaid program for more than 450,000 low income Ohioans. Investing in the health of our families and workforce is fiscally responsible and has strengthened Ohio’s economy. Ohio’s Medicaid programs supports healthy families and communities allowing people who need mental health and addiction services to find a path to health, wellness, and recovery.

We applaud Governor Kasich for his dedicated attention on the importance of behavioral health. Hubert Wirtz, Chief Executive Officer, noted, “Medicaid is an essential work support program that provides important access to mental health and addiction services in Ohio. Access to mental health and addiction services is essential to keeping Ohioans healthy, improving school success for our children, supporting families, building bridges to work, and growing jobs and our economy.”

We as a society recognize that we need to improve access to mental health and addiction services so our children, families, and communities can thrive. We know that treatment works and people recover to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Health care coverage through Medicaid is a fundamental building block for families, employers, and Ohio’s economy.

Mark Davis, President, Ohio Provider Resource Association - “The Ohio Provider Resource Association applauds Governor Kasich for his strong and continuing support of the work our member organizations do on behalf of Ohioans living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“The budget proposal includes expenditures of state general revenue funds of \$45 million and \$102 million in the next two fiscal years into Ohio’s system of caring for those individuals. This historic investment in our system has wide-reaching implications. We appreciate the governor’s commitment to supporting people with disabilities having the same opportunities in life as all Ohioans. The investment proposed by Governor Kasich will enable our member agencies to offer more adequate compensation for the direct service professionals who care for individuals with intellectual and developmental

disabilities. These direct service professionals work for poverty-level wages, and they deserve to be fairly compensated for the vital services they provide.

“We look forward to working with the Kasich Administration and Ohio General Assembly in the weeks and months ahead to identify additional opportunities to improve our system of care for vulnerable Ohioans.”

Amy Schultz Clubbs, President, Molina Healthcare of Ohio - “As a company dedicated to providing quality health care to the people who need it most, Molina Healthcare applauds Governor Kasich’s continued support for sustained Medicaid funding as presented in the budget proposal. Molina looks forward to reviewing the budget in its entirety and working closely with the Office of Health Transformation to continue delivering results that improve health outcomes for our Medicaid members while also saving taxpayer dollars.”

Terry Russell, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio - “I was thrilled, but not surprised, to read in the paper on Sunday that Governor Kasich will include additional funding in the budget for children in need of mental health services. I’ve also been told that there will be continued funding in the Governor’s budget for the Residential State Supplement program for adults with serious mental illness who are unable to live on their own. These programs, coupled with health insurance for low income Ohioans, some of whom struggle with untreated mental health disorders, will go a long way toward addressing the needs of many of our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Terry Russell, the Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio. “NAMI Ohio is grateful to Governor Kasich for prioritizing mental health during his first four years in office and right now it looks like the next four years will be much the same.”

Shelly Kiser, spokesperson for Investing in Tobacco-Free Youth Coalition - “We applaud Governor Kasich’s bold proposals that will lead to significant reductions in tobacco use in Ohio. The proposed increase in the cigarette tax by \$1.00 per pack will reduce youth smoking rates by 12 percent and will help more than 73,000 Ohioans overcome their addiction to cigarettes.

Governor Kasich also proposes to increase the tax rate on other tobacco products like chew, snuff, and cigars to match the rate on cigarettes. Raising the other tobacco products tax will help ensure that kids don’t turn to or start using these products because they are cheaper.

Additional policy proposals to make Ohio’s school and college campuses tobacco-free promote social norms that encourage healthy living and lifestyle choices. These policies support students and employees on college campuses who are trying to quit but also dissuade young adults from starting to use tobacco products.

The savings to the state will be great. The five-year costs savings to the Medicaid program will be more than \$15 million. The long-term health care cost savings will reach \$2.7 billion. Fewer low birthweight babies, less cancer, fewer heart attacks, preventing 40,100 premature smoking-caused deaths—priceless.

We thank Governor Kasich for making tobacco prevention and cessation a priority in his budget.”

Marcie Seidel, Executive Director, Drug Free Action Alliance - Drug Free Action Alliance extends its support for Governor Kasich's budget proposal. With an emphasis on not only the financial health of the state, but also the health of Ohio's citizens, we believe that this budget proposal can help improve the overall financial, mental and physical health for all Ohioans. Governor Kasich's budget calls for the re-authorization of Medicaid, which has already provided essential healthcare for over 470,000 additional Ohioans, so that children and families can reach their potential keeping Ohio's future bright. We also are in full support of the additional tax to tobacco products, which costs taxpayers \$289 billion in lost productivity at work and health-related consequences from tobacco products in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Research has consistently shown that higher taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products reduces smoking rates in adults, which leads to better health, and it also is a barrier to children taking up this deadly addiction.

Melissa Wervey Arnold, Executive Director, Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics - "We are so appreciative that Governor Kasich and his administration have had the foresight to place top priority on primary care for Ohioans in the proposed Executive Budget. Enhanced reimbursement for primary care providers will continue to ensure that preventive care, dental health, well visits and other services will help keep Ohioans healthy, leading to a strong, viable workforce now and in the foreseeable future in our state. We are also grateful to the Governor for continuing efforts to curb tobacco use through increased taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco, which research has shown helps to prevent underage use of these products."

Sisters of Charity Health System - The Sisters of Charity Health System has long believed that health care is a fundamental right for all people, and that families and communities are stronger when everyone has access to quality, affordable health care. That is why we applaud Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his administration for proposing continued funding to provide health care coverage to some of our most vulnerable Ohioans. His last biennial budget in 2013 made it possible for more than 451,000 Ohioans to receive access to the care they need.

Across the nation, studies have shown that making health coverage available to vulnerable populations demonstrably improves health care outcomes and financial security for beneficiaries compared to being uninsured. Having insurance makes a difference for individuals and families, and these benefits are shared by the business community through a strong, healthy workforce. In fact, newly enrolled Ohioans are primarily the working poor in our communities with roughly 70 percent holding at least one full-time worker in their household. It also brings significant resources into the state by returning billions of Ohio taxpayer dollars back to Ohio through Medicaid, which results in increased economic activity across the state.

In the end, it's about all Ohioans having the ability to access a regular source of health care, so they can get preventive services to be healthy and stay healthy and productive, and ensure no one has to delay or forego needed care when they are sick.

Insured Ohioans are healthier and more productive Ohioans, and that is an investment in Ohio's future.

The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers - The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers applauds Governor John Kasich for his leadership and commitment to a healthy Ohio through the proposals in the 2016-17 budget unveiled today. Specifically, the value and benefits from continued funding of the Medicaid program will provide the supports to transform individual lives and keep all of Ohio healthy, competitive, strong and thriving.

Every day we see how healthcare works to transform lives – from healthier newborns to better health outcomes for adults with chronic illnesses.

“Ohio’s Community Health Centers have a proven record of delivering high quality, low-cost care, coupled with a strong presence in urban neighborhoods, small towns and rural counties where poverty is often highest,” says OACHC President and CEO Randy Runyon. “Through our work, we have demonstrated that modern, coordinated health coverage improves health outcomes with lower costs because care is delivered in the patient's own neighborhood, not the emergency room or urgent care center.”

As more Ohioans gain health coverage, Ohio’s Community Health Centers are simultaneously building capacity with more locations and care providers. These healthcare homes offer better patient-to-clinician ratios, shorter wait times and more comprehensive care like oral, pharmacy, and behavioral health services all under one roof.

Health coverage works to help transform how Ohioans more effectively use the healthcare system that used to be unavailable to them. Community Health Centers are proud to partner with the Kasich Administration and our legislative leadership to be part of the State's solution to increasing access to care for our most underserved populations.

Cheri L. Walter, CEO, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities - The members of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities appreciate the Administration's continued focus on mental health and addiction issues. The continuation of increased access to health care coverage through Medicaid will allow more individuals to access life-saving treatment services. Additionally, the focused investment in needed treatment services and recovery supports for individuals with addiction involved with the criminal justice system will lead to increased health outcomes, decreased recidivism rates, and safer communities. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and the General Assembly as we roll out these initiatives while we work together to ensure that Ohioans have access to a comprehensive continuum of care. In alignment with our Blueprint "Recovery is Beautiful", this continuum of care will include prevention, crisis, and treatment services, along with a complete array of recovery supports including housing, employment services, transportation, and peer supports to help individuals achieve and maintain long-term recovery.

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery - "Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery applauds Governor Kasich's continued emphasis on access to health care for Ohioans in his proposed state budget. Access to health care resulting from the 2014 Medicaid expansion has had a huge impact on individuals seeking recovery from addiction, many of whom had no coverage prior to the expansion.

The Kasich Administration's plan to continue coverage for this population means a healthier workforce, healthier families, and a healthier Ohio."

Jeff Stephens, director of government relations in Ohio for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network - "The proposed health investments in Governor Kasich's budget will improve the health of all Ohioans and make Ohio's economy more attractive and competitive. One-third of all cancer deaths are tobacco-related. Therefore we strongly support Governor Kasich's proposal to increase cigarette taxes by \$1.00 per pack, and to equalize the tax on other tobacco products. ... Additionally, ACS CAN commends the governor's proposal to reauthorize the investment in Ohio's Medicaid program."

Sandy Theis, Executive Director, ProgressOhio - "I applaud Gov. John Kasich for his continued efforts to fortify Ohio's health care safety net. There are countless examples of how access to coverage has improved the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. The positive experiences of patients and health care providers are well documented and show that expanded Medicaid coverage has been healthy for Ohio."

Dr. Steven G. Gabbe, Chief Executive Officer, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center - "I commend Governor John Kasich for providing continued funding in the Administration's proposed budget to give low-income Ohioans access to health care services," said Dr. Steven G. Gabbe, senior vice president for Health Sciences at The Ohio State University and chief executive officer of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

"Additional Medicaid coverage in Ohio has directly benefited hundreds of thousands of low-income individuals and families who have now secured health coverage. Ohio is on track to have more than 470,000 additional individuals enrolled under Medicaid by the end of June.

"Health care can transform the lives of our most vulnerable residents. These patients now have access to preventive care and screenings, which leads to improved health outcomes. Relationships between patients and care providers are established, allowing medical conditions to be treated and managed. Ultimately this helps create a healthier Ohio economy.

"I look forward to working with Governor Kasich and our legislators as we all work to continue Ohio's leadership role in promoting health care access for all Ohioans. We will work to ensure that the Medicaid budget and other health reforms allow us to continue our mission of improving people's lives through innovation in research, education and patient care."

Cathy Levine, co-chair of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage - "We applaud the Kasich Administration's decision to include continued funding for Medicaid coverage for vulnerable Ohioans. Over 450,000 Ohioans have gained health coverage through Medicaid's Group 8. This funding is making a difference in the lives of Ohioans with low incomes. ...The ripple effects of this decision will create healthier Ohioans, a balanced budget, and an environment for thriving businesses."

MetroHealth - At MetroHealth, our mission is to lead the way to a healthier community. Today, we applaud Governor Kasich for leading the state and introducing a budget that continues funding and coverage for some of our most vulnerable Ohioans.

MetroHealth knows first-hand that healthcare works to transform lives. During the MetroHealth Care Plus pilot program, which was an early version of this coverage, we found many enrollees were the working poor, often struggling to find coverage and maintain health.

After providing access to coverage, we found health outcomes were improved and costs were significantly lower than estimates. In fact, many were accessing essential services such as dentistry or behavioral health for the first time in years.

While there is a lot that the budget proposes in the way of reform, it is critical that coverage be continued so that reform is possible. MetroHealth appreciates the Governor's steadfast support on this issue and look forward to a partnership that makes all of our communities healthier.

The Ohio State Medical Association - "Two years ago the Ohio State Medical Association supported the expansion of Medicaid as a crucial tool for increasing access to healthcare for numerous Ohioans who were either uninsured or otherwise unable to see a doctor for medical care. We are pleased to learn that the governor has signaled that he has every intention of continuing this process which has helped more than 400,000 Ohioans in just over a year visit a doctor's office."

AIDS Resource Center Ohio - (Ohio) AIDS Resource Center Ohio (ARC Ohio) extends its appreciation and support for the State of Ohio's new budget. The proposed continued funding and coverage for some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens is critical to ARC Ohio's work and provides tools and resources that will help reduce the rate of new HIV infections in Ohio.

In Ohio, there are 1,000 new HIV infections each year. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that every HIV infection averted saves \$379,668 (in 2010 dollars). Research currently demonstrates that deferring treatment or preventing access to antiretroviral medication results in greater long term costs for the state at-large.

The latest medical studies have demonstrated that viral suppression is key to an effective public health strategy and is critical to reducing the rate of new HIV infections. The use of antiretroviral therapy reliably prevents HIV transmission over an extended period of time by up to 96%. Furthermore, it costs about one third as much to help patients achieve and attain viral suppression as it does to treat those who do not have their HIV disease under control. Continued funding for coverage for persons with HIV increases access to therapy, reduces costs for care, saves tax payer dollars, and reduces the rate of new HIV infections in the state.

After 30 years of service to the state of Ohio, ARC Ohio knows that healthcare truly works to transform lives. We believe in the benefit that medical care coverage affords those individuals who need it most and appreciate Governor Kasich's efforts to support funding and coverage.

The Centers for Families and Children - The Centers for Families and Children announced their praise of Governor Kasich's efforts on continuing Medicaid coverage in the state of Ohio.

"We applaud Governor Kasich's continued support for those in need of services," said Chief Program Officer Jim Penman for The Centers for Families and Children. "At The Centers, we are seeing the

transformation in the lives of our behavioral health clients. Not only are they gaining access to healthcare but they are utilizing the care more effectively."

The Centers for Families and Children is one of the largest non-profit human service organizations in Northeast Ohio with services in early learning, integrated health and wellness, workforce development, youth intervention programming and food centers. The mission is to eliminate poverty as a barrier to success and allow all people to be healthy, educated, independent and connected.

Pam Morris, President and CEO, CareSource - CareSource, a Dayton-based nonprofit health plan applauds Governor John Kasich's proposal to continue funding health care coverage of our most vulnerable Ohioans. Pam Morris, President and CEO of CareSource released the following statement:

Governor John Kasich has made a principled decision in his budget this year with the continued funding of health care coverage for some of our most at risk Ohioans. At CareSource, we applaud the Governor's forward thinking position to be a catalyst for creating and maintaining a healthy population. Governor Kasich understands that health care transforms lives and that every Ohioan deserves access to health care coverage. His commitment to a healthier Ohio is essential to our overall economic competitiveness, and we appreciate his continued commitment to transforming health care in our State.

Summa Health System - At Summa Health System, we firmly believe that Medicaid helps. Through the healthcare services that come with Medicaid, lives are transformed: addictions are overcome; healthy babies are born; jobs are obtained; and mental and emotional health is maintained.

With this in mind, Summa is appreciative of the continued effort and commitment that the Governor and his administration have shown in working to continue funding and coverage for some of the most vulnerable Ohioans.

In addition, we have been encouraged by the recent statements made by leaders in the Senate and House about maintaining health care coverage in this budget. We look forward to working with them and the members of the General Assembly in demonstrating that high quality, low-cost providers like Summa provide care that creates both value and financial stability for the state of Ohio.

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners - The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) is pleased to learn that Governor Kasich's budget, as introduced today, will provide continued funding for Medicaid coverage for some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

"We have witnessed in our local communities the benefit of coverage for individuals and families who previously were without the ability to seek preventive and health screening services. Access to health care is a critical factor to the overall wellness of all Ohioans," said AOHC President Shelia Hiddleston, Health Commissioner, Delaware County General Health District. "This continued support provides a pathway to better health for many, with an emphasis on prevention and wellness."

The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners is the statewide organization representing the 125 local health districts in Ohio. Its mission is to provide exceptional service to its members and to advance the mission of public health to prevent, promote and protect the health of the community by developing

and maintaining strong local public health leadership, forming strong relationships with local, state and federal public health stakeholders, and advocating for a strong and robust local public health system.