



OHIO'S JOBS BUDGET 2.0

JOBS. MOMENTUM. TRANSFORMATION.

Stakeholder Support for Medicaid Extension

Keith Lake, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce: "The question of whether or not to expand Medicaid is a complex one. However, doing so is ultimately the right decision. Due to cost shifting resulting from uncompensated care, employers are already paying a hidden tax that makes their health insurance premiums higher than they should be. Without expansion, this cost shifting would be even more severe." ([press release](#))

Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio Right to Life: "I think what we're seeing from this governor is a kind and compassionate approach. I would ask our friends in the Tea Party to read the full proposal and see it's not only the most compassionate, but also the most fiscally responsible. You don't have to be a Democrat or a Republican to support this." ([article](#))

Larry L. Long, Executive Director of the County Commissioner's Association of Ohio: "After reviewing the likely effects of an expansion, it seems that there are many winners. Between the positive impacts to the economy, the ability to get more people into preventative care rather than emergency room care, and providing a much needed boost to our behavioral health system, expansion seems like the common sense thing to do."

Mike Abrams, President and CEO of the Ohio Hospital Association: "Ohio hospitals strongly support Governor John Kasich's decision to seize this unique opportunity to enhance Medicaid eligibility and strengthen the health care safety net for thousands of Ohio families." ([statement](#))

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio: "On behalf of the thousands of Ohioans with mental health disorders and their families, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio) wants to THANK YOU for including Medicaid expansion in your budget proposal. Your decision will make an enormous difference in the lives of those who struggle with holding down a job while battling depression, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia and other mental health disorders that make it difficult to cope with everyday life."

Dr. Deepak Kumar, President of the Ohio State Medical Association: "Gov. Kasich is to be commended for standing by his health care pledge to help assist the most vulnerable citizens among us. In particular, the OSMA appreciates that the governor's proposal not only places an emphasis on patients taking greater responsibility for their own care, but also adds more money into the system which may encourage more people to visit a physician."

Nicholas Lashutka, President of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association: "The members of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association join our colleagues at the Ohio Hospital Association in supporting responsible Medicaid expansion in Ohio."

Ellen G. van der Horst, President and CEO of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber: “On behalf of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and the 5,000 member businesses and 310,000 employees we represent, I write you today to encourage you to take steps to responsibly expand Medicaid coverage in Ohio.”

Michael Dalby, President and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce: “Currently, the cost of uninsured Ohioans is borne by employers, hospital systems and all of our region’s citizens in the form of higher health-insurance costs. Responsible Medicaid coverage presents a real opportunity to bend the health-care cost curve by moving individuals into appropriate, lower-cost settings.”

Joseph D. Roman, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Partnership: “After thorough and thoughtful review of this complex issue, it has become clearer that expansion of Medicaid rolls in Ohio will, overall, greatly benefit the state. Ohio will face undue financial harm if we don’t expand Medicaid.”

Phillip L. Parker, President and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce: “The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce encourages you and the Ohio General Assembly to pursue a reasonable extension of Medicaid coverage in Ohio, without increased burdens on the Ohio business community and an inclusion of a “circuit breaker” that allows Ohio to reconsider and opt-out of this extension if the federal government reduces the current rates of reimbursement to the states.”

The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives: “Governor Kasich is no fan of ObamaCare, and he’s proven it repeatedly with his actions. Governors are playing the hand they’ve been dealt by the Obama Administration. Governor Kasich said a strong ‘no’ to a state-run exchange and to federal takeovers of insurance regulation and Medicaid eligibility. Ohioans applauded him for these actions, and they trust that he’s doing his best to minimize the law’s harmful effects on our state.”

Dr. Steven G. Gabbe, CEO of The Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center: “I commend Governor John Kasich for taking this critical, bold step to expand the state’s Medicaid program and give low-income Ohioans access to important health care services.

“This expansion will allow about 450,000 residents to receive preventive medical services sooner so they can live longer, healthier lives, reduce hospitalizations and have healthier babies. Expanding Medicaid will also help Ohio hospitals recoup some of the costs we incur when providing uncompensated care to the uninsured.

“I look forward to working with our governor and our legislators as we move forward to responsibly create a healthier economy. As the Ohio General Assembly considers this budget proposal, we will work to ensure that the Medicaid budget and other health payment reforms allow us to continue our mission of improving people’s lives through innovation in research, education and patient care.”

John A. Begala, Executive Director of the Center for Community Solutions: “In the health care arena, the administration’s proposals are extraordinarily comprehensive and forward looking. Most significant is the decision to proceed with expansion of Ohio’s Medicaid program. Providing health benefits for low-income workers and their families will benefit well over half a million Ohioans. Covering low-income individuals -- many of whom have significant behavioral health problems or chronic diseases -- will vastly improve the lives of some of the poorest and most severely ill Ohioans. In combination, the expansion should relieve providers, businesses and the privately insured of most of the cost of uncompensated care, making complex and dysfunctional cost shifting a thing of the past.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, Chancellor and Executive Vice President of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans

“The Ohio Council of Medical School Deans wish to express our unanimous support for thoughtful and systematic Medicaid expansion in Ohio...Expansion of Medicaid in Ohio must surely be considerate of the balance between expansion and DSH payments, as it will drastically impact our educational, research and health care delivery missions.”

Catholic Conference of Ohio: “The mission of the Catholic health ministry, in accordance with the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, calls us to be distinguished through “service to and advocacy for those people whose social condition puts them at the margins of our society and makes them particularly vulnerable to discrimination.” We are committed to ensuring that these populations get the access to coverage extended to them under the ACA, as well as to preserving Medicaid from harmful budget cuts and program changes proposed in Washington.” ([statement](#))

Oliver “Pudge” Henkel, Chief External Affairs Officer of the Cleveland Clinic: Kasich’s decision is “a very important point in time for the state of Ohio...A positive decision on Medicaid expansion will be a real shot in the arm for those who are really concerned about providing access to everyone.” ([article](#))

David Royer, CEO of the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board of Franklin County: “We know that mental health and addiction treatment services are effective and people heal. Governor Kasich’s proposal means that an estimated 69,000 uninsured residents would have access to vital physical and mental health service through the expansion of Medicaid. It is estimated that people with mental illness die prematurely nearly twenty five years earlier than the general population. This will allow Franklin County to expand important services to people with serious mental illness...”

William M. Denihan, CEO of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County: “On behalf of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, I want to personally congratulate and thank Governor John Kasich for including Medicaid Expansion in his budget that was announced on Monday, February 4, 2013. This expansion up to the recommended 138% of the federal poverty level will provide 600,000 uninsured Ohioans with Medicaid, including 80,000 people right here in Cuyahoga County, including people living with mental illness and addictions.”

Judy Wortham Wood, Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties: “Our local community needs this Medicaid expansion support to assure that appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment services are provided to our citizens. As you know, our area, as other areas of the state, was hit hard by the economic crisis. This funding will enable people to receive essential treatment to increase available employee’s readiness for available jobs, thus supporting your Ohio Jobs Budget 2.0.”

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections: “OJACC applauds Governor Kasich’s announcement that his Administration supports the expansion of Medicaid...Without this expansion, Ohio would forfeit this available funding and an estimated 1.5 million people would be left with no way to pay for healthcare.”

Marcie Seidel, Executive Director of the Drug Free Action Alliance: “Drug Free Action Alliance fully supports Governor Kasich’s budget decision for Ohio to take advantage of Medicaid Expansion. This opportunity will open up vital treatment and preventative options for Ohioans struggling with mental health and substance addiction issues. Working with communities, colleges, families who have lost loved ones and youth groups throughout Ohio, we see firsthand the crucial need for expanding these needed services. We commend Governor Kasich for his

courageous leadership in assuring that all citizens will have the guarantee of receiving the assistance that they need in order to maintain and grow in their professional and personal lives.

Laura Moskow Sigal, President of Mental Health America of Ohio: “We thank Gov. Kasich for his support of Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Access to care has been the biggest barrier for people with mental health issues. Expanding Medicaid will allow more people who are in desperate need of mental health services to access the help they need to recover. This will put more people back to work, and speed up Ohio's economic recovery.”

Hubert Wirtz, CEO of The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers: “Access to mental health and addiction services is essential to keeping Ohioans healthy, supporting job growth, improving school success for our children, supporting families, and our overall economic development in Ohio.”

Michael Schoenhofer, President of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities: “Medicaid expansion is great news for many Ohioans with a mental illness or addiction who have been in need of treatment services but unable to obtain them, and we thank the Governor for including it in his budget.”

Cheri Walter, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities: “Our Boards remain committed to working with the General Assembly to not only support the Governor’s Medicaid Expansion, but also to secure sufficient resources to ensure critical services are available that Medicaid does not cover which lead to stable families and healthy and safe communities.”

David Browne, Board Member of Washington County Behavioral Health: “By expanding Medicaid coverage to all individuals under age 65 with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level, most men and women being released from prisons and jails will be eligible for Medicaid coverage, which includes mental health and substance abuse treatment. Being able to treat these individuals can help keep them from going back to their old habits, and back through the court system. By using these federal dollars, we can increase treatment that will reduce re-incarceration, thereby lowering local and state expenditures for care while in jail or prison.

“In order to reduce the likelihood of similar events such as those that occurred in Chardon, Ohio, and Newtown, Connecticut, Ohio must have a robust and accessible mental health and addiction services continuum of care, including prevention and wellness, screenings, engagement, crisis services, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, and community support services.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Joel Potts, Executive Director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association: “The Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association applauds Governor John Kasich for his Budget 2.0. His decision to expand Medicaid eligibility will provide tremendous benefits which will strengthen families, improve the health of hundreds of thousands of Ohioans, strengthen the state economy and benefit all counties throughout the state.”

Donna J. Conley, Executive Director of Ohio Citizen Advocates: “Ohio Citizen Advocates is extremely grateful to Governor Kasich for including Medicaid expansion in his budget. For the first time in many years, low-income childless adults may have the opportunity to access adequate health care including treatment for substance use disorders. We applaud the Governor's foresight in this move that will help so many more people find recovery.”

Joan Englund, Executive Director of Mental Health Advocacy Coalition: “Access to behavioral health treatment services and recovery supports is a significant challenge for many Ohioans. When mental illnesses and addiction

disorders go untreated, both individuals and communities suffer. Medicaid expansion will reduce the burden on many sectors of Ohio's communities."

Esther Pla, President and CEO of Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy, Beachwood, Ohio: "There was a significant grassroots advocacy campaign that had begun weeks before the Governor's budget was introduced and Medicaid expansion was announced. The Governor heard our requests. In my opinion, it is now time for our county to begin planning on how to move into this new world of healthcare. The beauty is that it is not just about mental healthcare. We are finally beginning to move into the treatment of the whole person. Soon, care will be integrated, coordinated and managed to minimize noncompliance, reduce recidivism, reduce the use of emergency rooms, and save and extend lives." ([letter to the editor](#))

United Way of Central Ohio: "Medicaid expansion is consistent with United Way of Central Ohio's 2013-2014 Public Policy Agenda (tier two issue – increase access to health care for low- and moderate-income individuals and families); the Board of Trustees endorses Medicaid Eligibility Expansion." ([board resolution](#))

City of Cincinnati Resolution 003-2013: "Expressing City Council's support for Medicaid expansion under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and urging Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly to support Medicaid expansion in the state of Ohio."

Alex R. Fischer, Chairman of the Board of Nationwide Children's Hospital: "Although the children served by Nationwide Children's Hospital are already eligible for Medicaid up to 200 percent of FPL, we believe the health of the entire family is of paramount importance to the economic vitality of the state."

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers: "Day in and day out, Ohio's Community Health Centers see the tremendous need for greater health care coverage across our state. Expanded Medicaid eligibility levels are directly associated with the enhanced ability of safety net providers like Community Health Centers to invest in capacity, increase access and better meet the needs of patients and our communities. If fully implemented by the states, Medicaid expansion will enable Health Centers to reach approximately 19.8 million new patients nationwide. Conversely, without the Medicaid expansion, Health Centers' new patient care capacity would be reduced by nearly 27 percent, a 5.3 million drop in new patients served." ([press release](#))

Edward R. Hills, Interim President and CEO of MetroHealth System: "The MetroHealth System commends Governor John Kasich for continuing his efforts to transform health care in Ohio by including proposals to simplify Medicaid eligibility and to eliminate the Medicaid coverage gap in his state budget proposal, and we urge the Ohio General Assembly to back this continued transformation."

Jane Taylor, State Director for AARP Ohio: "AARP Ohio commends the governor for proposing to expand Medicaid to provide coverage for hardworking people who've paid in all their lives but are now struggling to make ends meet. The governor's decision will be of significant help to 50 to 64-year-olds who've lost their jobs or are struggling in lower-paying jobs without health insurance and cannot currently qualify for Medicaid health coverage. It will help more Ohioans get access to quality and preventive care so that they can be healthier and more productive. This decision also will reduce costly emergency visits, and catch and treat at an earlier stage those suffering from chronic disease, which becomes an even bigger problem as we age."

Ed Hughes, CEO of Compass Community Health: "For a number of years we've lived with the reality that some of the unhealthiest folks in our community are unable to access health care services because they are uninsured. The

Medicaid expansion will create a pathway for them to be able to access what we think is a very well developed system in our community, between primary care, hospitals and clinics that are available. There is likely 20 percent of our citizens that can not access the services we have and this Medicaid expansion will create that opportunity.”

W. Scott Frey, President and CEO of the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio: “The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio supports responsible Medicaid expansion and calls upon your leadership to make it a reality for low income Ohioans. The benefits of expanding Medicaid coverage to include adults up to 138 percent of federal poverty guidelines justify its inclusion in the biennial state operating budget.”

Robert W. Shroder, Senior Vice President of Catholic Health Partners: “Ohio also has a chance to build a more flexible Medicaid program, with greater opportunities for personal responsibility, less cost shifting onto privately insured families and employers, and less financial risk for the state.” ([letter to the editor](#))

David Blom, President and CEO of OhioHealth: “At OhioHealth, we continue to live by our mission of improving the health of those we serve. And we are working diligently to align incentives for our hospitals, physicians, consumers and payors to focus on wellness and prevention, to integrate care more efficiently and effectively, and to improve quality while lowering total cost of care.

Access to care is a key component of that equation — and expansion of Medicaid eligibility will increase access. For these reasons, OhioHealth stands ready to work with Gov. Kasich and legislative leaders to expand Medicaid eligibility and improve health care in our state.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Randy Oostra, President and CEO of ProMedica Health System: “Reforming the Medicaid program will have challenges. It will take the collective work of each of us — health-care professionals, lawmakers, and other leaders throughout the state — to help develop a sustainable solution. However, a responsible Medicaid expansion offers a unique opportunity to receive federal matching funds as well as to create more-rational incentives in our health-care delivery system. We stand with the Ohio Hospital Association, its 167 hospitals and 19 health systems, and urge the governor and state policy makers to include Medicaid expansion in the 2014-2015 budget.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Andrea Price, President and CEO of Mercy Hospital, Toledo, Ohio: “We are pleased that Governor Kasich has included expansion of Medicaid eligibility in his budget proposal. As the front line of health care in our community, Mercy believes the expansion represents a crucial step in creating healthier communities and building a better health-care system for Ohioans.” ([article](#))

James May, President and CEO Mercy Health, Cincinnati, Ohio: “While there may be questions around the affordability of expansion, Ohio has an opportunity to build a more flexible Medicaid program, with greater opportunities for personal responsibility, less cost shifting onto privately insured families and employers, and less financial risk for the state. As the front line of health care, Mercy Health encourages policymakers to take advantage of this chance to help secure a better health care system for Ohio.” ([letter to the editor](#))

CEOs of CareSource, Kettering Health Network, Premier Health Partners and the Children’s Medical Center of Dayton: “We encourage Ohio lawmakers to make the right choice for the people and businesses in Ohio. We all benefit from allowing low-income Ohioans to get the health care coverage they need. It makes strong business sense, and simply put, it is the right thing to do.” ([article](#))

Matthew Perry, CEO of Genesis Healthcare System, Robert Miller, CEO of Coshocton County Memorial Hospital and Ray Chorey, CEO of Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center: (Matthew Perry) “This is a critical decision with major ramifications for the overall health of our region and the long-term stability of health care costs for the entire state. We stand together in support of this expansion with the belief that it is in the best interest of our communities. We will be paying the federal taxes either way, and the expansion will return these tax dollars to Ohio to improve the lives of Ohioans.” ([article](#))

Sandy Oxley, Chief Advocacy Officer and Interim CEO of Voices for Ohio’s Children: “Voices commends the strategic vision of the administration in their recognition of the opportunity that exists in extending Medicaid to individuals up to 138% of poverty. Couple this action with continuing the streamlining and modernization efforts already begun and maintaining optional benefits, we are thrilled. This will go far to ensure that children have meaningful health coverage.”

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio’s Future: “Governor Kasich’s decision to include Medicaid expansion in his biennial budget will be a boost to Ohio’s economy. Medicaid expansion will bring 30,000 new health care jobs to the state of Ohio by 2022. This decision makes Ohioans healthier—healthy citizens build strong communities, and healthy workers strengthen Ohio’s economy.

“This decision will support the mother of two children who is on a four-month waiting list at a community mental health center. Today, she struggles with depression and taking care of her children. She is hanging on to her job by a slim thread. Medicaid expansion will allow her to get the treatment she needs and strengthen her family and her chances of success at work.

“By investing in public services that make Ohio’s workforce healthier and more competitive, our economy is strengthened and Ohio thrives. The expansion of Medicaid is a step in the right direction. We look forward to working with the Legislature and the Governor as they make important choices on how to transform health care in Ohio.”

Mark Davis, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio’s Future: “Two years ago, state government began transforming Medicaid in Ohio. Since then, we’ve seen bold health care reforms that are focused on improving outcomes and making Ohio a more attractive place to work and live. The Governor is positioning Ohio to be a national leader in the health care industry through innovation in research, education, and delivery.

“Advocates for Ohio’s Future strongly urges the Ohio legislature to extend Medicaid coverage to low income workers and their families. Doing so will position Ohio to fill thousands of health care jobs, make Ohioans more competitive, and continue important reforms that are transforming health care delivery. A decision to include Medicaid extension to the working poor in the next state budget will help Ohio realize nearly \$1.4 billion in savings, create over 30,000 jobs, and result in nearly 500,000 uninsured Ohioans gaining health coverage through 2022.”

Bob Baxter, President and CEO of St. Rita’s Health Partners: “We view it as a positive thing and strongly support the governor’s decision to include the expansion of Medicaid in his budget. Our uncompensated care in the last five years has gone up by 70 percent. This will make a significant impact.” ([article](#))

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, President and CEO of the Sisters of Charity Health System: “The mission of Catholic health care asks us to advocate for all those in need. Increasing access to Medicaid will give nearly 600,000 Ohioans the dignity of health insurance. I ask you to add your voice in support of Medicaid expansion in Ohio.”

Joyce Garver Keller, Executive Director of Ohio Jewish Communities: “Ensuring that those in need have access to Medicaid services, including mental and physical healthcare, will make it easier for Ohioans to fulfill their job responsibilities, and it will improve the quality of their lives and the lives of those who love them.”

Leslie Dunn and Warren L. Wolfson, Co-Chairs of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland: “As leaders of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, we want to express our support for Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. By opening the door to 600,000 more Ohioans, our state has a historic opportunity to improve health and safety, provide a major boost to our economy, and continue important reforms already underway.”

Rabbi Irvin M. Wise, Adath Israel Congregation: “I thank you for your leadership, wisdom and sense of responsibility as represented by including the expansion to the Medicaid program in your Executive Budget submission.”

The Episcopal Church: “We believe that the Medicaid Expansion provided for in the ACA is fiscally responsible and consistent with our values, our principles, and the historic commitment of The Episcopal Church. We therefore offer our support to Governor Kasich and our legislators in continuing the process of strengthening Medicaid by enacting Medicaid Expansion now.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Margaret A. Fox, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati: “The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, an interfaith coalition, made up of sixteen denominations of Muslims, Jews, Roman Catholics, Protestants and Unitarian-Universalists in the tri-state region supports the expansion of Medicaid in Ohio. MARCC strongly urges you to put Medicaid Expansion in your 2014-2016 budgets. It is the right thing to do for those Ohioans who are without healthcare coverage which they sorely need.”

Tracy Davidson, President of UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio: “We applaud Governor Kasich’s decision to expand Medicaid and his continuing efforts to modernize Ohio’s Medicaid program. In coming weeks, we will carefully review the details of the Governor’s budget and work with the Administration to ensure that, as the State creates an expanded system of coordinated care, it also creates a sustainable financial structure that will provide access to high quality health care for Ohio’s most vulnerable citizens.”

Miranda Motter, President and CEO of the Ohio Association of Health Plans: “With inclusion of Medicaid expansion in his budget proposal, Governor Kasich has made a practical, common sense move that will benefit Ohio taxpayers, while greatly improving health care for hundreds of thousands Ohioans. It’s common sense because it will keep Ohio’s dollars in Ohio to support our hospitals, our health care providers, and our economy. At the same time it will reduce the number of uninsured Ohioans seeking care at emergency rooms, shifting them instead to primary care providers for preventive care, and treatment of problems before they become medical emergencies. Medicaid Expansion is a win-win for taxpayers and low income Ohioans alike and is a step in the right direction for continued health transformation in the state of Ohio. Payment reform and transparency are also critical keys to Ohio’s health care success. OAHF, whose member plans are experts at securing superior care for their clients and the lowest possible cost to taxpayers, support the Governor’s plan to expand Medicaid, and will work with him to secure legislative passage of this important initiative. At the same time, OAHF member plans will continue to review the other provisions included in the Governor’s proposal and will advocate for policies that ensure continued success and transformation of the state’s health care system, including the Medicaid program.”

Nitin Bhargava, President of Aetna: “We applaud Governor Kasich’s efforts to transform Ohio’s health care system. While in office, he has shown leadership on Medicaid modernization, Medicaid and Medicare integration, payment

reform, transparency, and now Medicaid expansion. These are all tangible examples of how he is moving Ohio's health care system forward. As a leader in healthcare transformation ourselves, Aetna stands ready to partner with the State as it makes choices that will impact the future delivery of healthcare to its citizens."

Steve White, President of Buckeye Community Health Plan: "That conclusion from the recent Impact Report is important and helps support the need for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion is a positive concept for hospitals and doctors as well, since it will allow them to get paid for their services, which many times doesn't happen in our current system. An expansion of Medicaid should result in a more efficient system, with less time spent on bad debts, less visits to emergency rooms and would ultimately result in more time spent on providing quality health care to those who need it.

"Buckeye's aim is to help create healthy outcomes by empowering members to participate in their health care and learn how they can help themselves and their families. Medicaid expansion in Ohio would ultimately offer the opportunity to help more people live healthier lives."

Pamela Morris, President and CEO of CareSource: "CareSource applauds Governor Kasich's decision to extend Medicaid in Ohio. This is the right choice for the people and businesses in Ohio. We all benefit from low-income Ohioans getting the health care coverage they need. This provides low-income Ohioans access to primary and preventative care avoiding high-cost catastrophic services. It is commonsense because it will bring billions of dollars into Ohio to invest in our health care system, providers and economy. We encourage Ohio lawmakers to follow the Governor's lead and make sure that Ohio doesn't miss out on the opportunity to transform health care in our State. It makes strong business sense and simply put, it is the right thing to do."

Molina Healthcare: "Molina Healthcare supports and applauds Governor Kasich's decision to include Medicaid expansion in Ohio's budget. For over 30 years, Molina has focused exclusively on serving patients who qualify for government-sponsored health care, and we are preparing for the influx of new Medicaid members in 2014 so that the transition will be smooth for the new beneficiaries, our provider network and our state partners. We will continue to leverage our experience serving the Medicaid population in Ohio to implement best practices, offering the highest quality care to our members in a cost-effective manner."

Coalition for Healthy Communities: "We call on Ohio's elected leaders to expand Medicaid income eligibility to further improve access to care. It is imperative to keep Ohioans healthy to support job growth, school success and overall economic development in Ohio."

Donna J. Conley and Ed Hughes, Co-chairs of the Ohio Health Benefits Coalition: "The Medicaid expansion is an unmatched opportunity to provide quality, affordable health coverage to individuals with substance use disorders and mental illness. Expanding Medicaid is simply the right thing to do for the people, families, and communities of our state, and we urge you to take action to ensure that all low-income Ohioans will be able to get the Medicaid coverage they deserve. We urge you to fill the current coverage gap so that our most vulnerable citizens can get the care they need."

Dr. Robert B. Kelly, President of the Northeast Ohio Academy of Family Physicians: "As family physicians who are on the frontlines of providing primary care, we know that the health and well-being of hundreds of thousands of our currently uninsured will be greatly enhanced when the Medicaid expansion is implemented."

“With the Medicaid expansion, the sustainability of the many healthcare facilities on which all Ohioans depend, which is a vital part of Ohio’s economy, will be greatly strengthened.”

Tom Horan, CEO of the Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.: “Governor Kasich’s decision to recommend expansion of the Medicaid program in his biennial budget is a win for the citizens of Ohio. This will provide the opportunity for individuals who have traditionally lacked access to health care to seek cost effective primary and preventive health services in place of more expensive emergency room visits. My center and the other federally qualified health centers throughout Ohio are ready to provide these health services to the thousands of Ohioans who will be eligible for the expanded Medicaid program beginning in January 2014.”

Semanthie Brooks, Chair of the Council on Older Persons, The Center for Community Solutions: “Medicaid expansion makes sense for all Ohioans and here are just some of the reasons why we are requesting your support: Up to 900,000 Ohioans will benefit from an expanded Medicaid program by 2020. More lives covered mean a healthier and more productive Ohio. The federal government will cover the costs of expanding Medicaid between 2014 and 2016. Ohio is justifiably proud of its health care infrastructure as an engine that drives productivity and jobs growth. An insured population has the potential to save all of us money in future years as there will be far less uncompensated care borne by providers and passed on to all of us in higher insurance premiums.”

Helen Farrah, Director of the Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services Belpre Clinic: “This is a really big deal....a Republican governor expanding services in the MH field. Thank you Gov. John Kasich for providing needed services for Ohioans who cannot afford Mental Health treatment. I am excited about being able to be a part of this and to be able to open clinic doors to those who could not previously be served. The Belpre Clinic will be ready and waiting on Jan. 1, 2104....well, Jan. 2, 2014.”

Bill Pallagi, LSW, Berea, Ohio: “Thank you for your effort in helping to get the Medicaid expansion funding through. I’m an LSW who has worked in the field since 1973. I am amazed at how much Gov. Kasich has done for the poor here.”

Disability Rights Ohio: “As a result of Gov. Kasich’s decision to move forward with expanding Medicaid coverage up to the 138% of FPL, many more Ohioans, including people with the disabilities, will now be eligible for Medicaid and have greater access to healthcare and mental health services.”

Eugene King, Director of the Ohio Poverty Law Center: “This will allow people to get health care sooner, so they will be healthier. It will reduce costs for other Ohioans. It will make people more employable. ... People with chronic health issues can get treatment.” ([article](#))

John Alfano, President and CEO of LeadingAge Ohio: “We appreciate the Governor’s proactive steps with this budget and we look forward to working with the Ohio Legislature in moving forward in providing the right care in the right setting for older and disabled Ohioans.”

Jon Allison, Director of the Ohio Alliance for Health Transformation: “We commend Governor Kasich for again taking a bold stand on behalf of Ohio’s most vulnerable citizens. Our diverse statewide alliance will work tirelessly to convince our state legislature that expansion is vital for Ohio’s economic competitiveness and the right thing to do for real Ohioans in need.” ([article](#))

Reverend Timothy Ahrens, Chair of the Central Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition (CO-MEC): “By including Medicaid Expansion in the state budget, Governor Kasich has conducted a very faithful move because so many more

people will be given the opportunity to be well, given the chance to be whole and healed. To me this is perhaps one of the greatest acts of faith we can do, to encourage health care for those living without through this initiative. As this legislation goes through the budget process we are hopeful that our elected officials in the Statehouse will also support Medicaid Expansion.”

Northeast Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition (NEO-MEC): “We believe Medicaid expansion is vital to our region and the state as a whole.”

Southwest Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition (SWO-MEC): “The Medicaid expansion will: improve the health of many Ohioans, reduce inefficient and unfair cost shifting in the healthcare industry, strengthen Ohio’s economy, and help reduce healthcare costs for Ohio’s businesses.”

Northwest Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition: “We support responsible Medicaid expansion and ask for your support, as well. The benefits to expanding Medicaid coverage to include adults with family incomes up to 138 percent of federal poverty guidelines justify its inclusion in the biennial state operating budget.”

Reverend Tracy Lind, Co-chairman of Greater Cleveland Congregations: “We believe that opening access to life-saving health insurance to 600,000 Ohioans through the Medicaid program is the right thing to do for Ohio’s people, for our economy and for our state’s fiscal health.”

Francis Afram-Gyening, CEO of the Care Alliance Health Center, Jean Polster, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Family Practice and Danny R. Williams, Executive Director of the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland: “The health and well-being of our patients, and patients like ours across Ohio, impact our state’s physical and fiscal health. Expanded Medicaid eligibility levels are directly associated with our ability to better meet the needs of patients and our community.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Dr. James L. Sechler, President of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio: “The AMCNO believes that the Medicaid expansion is vital to our region and the state as a whole. It is our hope that with your leadership Ohio will decide to support the Medicaid expansion...”

Peter Schade, Health Commissioner of the Erie County Health Department: “Just do it. It would reduce the amount of uninsured people. It would also save money on a local level and a state level and the federal level, because we would be providing care for folks in a more preventative manner.”

Mark Bridenbaugh, CEO of Family Healthcare, Inc.: “On a daily basis, Community Health Centers such as Family Healthcare, Inc. see the tremendous need for greater health-care coverage. Expanded Medicaid eligibility levels are directly associated with our ability to invest in capacity, increase access to care, and better meet the needs of patients and our community.” ([letter to the editor](#))

Bill Hardy, President and CEO of AIDS Resource Center Ohio (ARC Ohio): “This decision is an important step in helping Ohio meet the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. With this expanded support, we can continue to focus on reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to care, improving health outcomes, and reducing disparities in treatment for Ohioans living with HIV.”

Coalition for Patient Rights: “On behalf of the Coalition for Patient Rights, which seeks to improve timely access to quality and appropriate health care treatment and medications for the optimal wellbeing of Ohioans, we would like to take this opportunity to share our support for Ohio moving forward with expanding Medicaid eligibility in 2014.”

Ed Hughes, Chairperson of the Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers: “The membership of O.A.R.P. strongly and unequivocally supports the expansion of Medicaid coverage to individuals not able due to financial constraints to access healthcare coverage through private insurance.

Mary B. Dwight, Vice President of Government Affairs of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: “The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation supports the expansion of Medicaid to 138 percent of the federal poverty level to allow greater coverage for people with the disease.”

George E. Espy, President and Gordon B. Wean, Board Chair of Philanthropy Ohio: “Philanthropy Ohio respectfully requests that you consider the tremendous opportunity to improve the health of Ohio and stimulate the economy through Medicaid expansion. Foundations and philanthropic organizations have a long history of supporting health improvement initiatives and making quality health care more accessible to the underserved populations in their communities. There is no policy decision that has greater potential to improve health access and therefore improve the health status of Ohioans than that of Medicaid expansion.”

Col Owens and Cathy Levine, Co-chairs of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage: “We applaud Governor Kasich’s decision to include the Medicaid expansion in his proposed budget. We appreciate the Governor’s thoughtful approach and analysis and his courage to face critics.

“The Medicaid expansion will improve the health of hundreds of thousands of Ohioans. We know that when working families have health insurance, parents can go to work and children can go to school knowing they will be able to see a doctor if they need to. Instead of seeking routine care in emergency rooms, these Ohioans will be able to receive quality, consistent care in lower cost settings.

“The expansion will bring back to Ohio billions of federal tax dollars which will spur growth, create jobs, and keep our community hospitals strong.”

Cathy Levine, Executive Director of UHCAN Ohio: “This is great news for the many Ohioans who are earning minimum wage and can’t afford to pay for health care. These are hard-working people who are preparing our food, caring for our children and our elderly, doing all kinds of jobs that need to be done. Our Governor knows that they deserve to be healthy.”

Ron Pollack, Executive Director of FamiliesUSA: “Governor Kasich’s decision will not only help hundreds of thousands of Buckeyes, but it will also help to break the logjam among Republican governors considering a similar expansion.

“As a budget expert, Governor Kasich undoubtedly knew that turning down this expansion would be an act of fiscal malpractice. With the federal government picking up 100 percent of the expansion costs over the next three years and never less than 90 percent thereafter, states will receive unprecedented federal help in serving their citizens.

“Now that Republican governors in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Ohio have decided to implement the Medicaid expansion, we can expect other Republican governors to follow suit.”

Becky Williams, President of Service Employee International Union 1199: “Accepting federal funding for Medicaid expansion means greater access to health care, economic mobility, and jobs for many Ohioans.” ([article](#))

Policy Matters Ohio: “We congratulate the Kasich administration for embracing Medicaid expansion, recognizing that the revenues it brings into the state provide greater benefit than costs.”