



Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Legal Counsel

**PRESS RELEASE
REGARDING MEDICAID EXPANSION**

Our law firm was asked by our client, The Ohio Provider Resource Association ("OPRA"), to evaluate the lawfulness of the proposed Controlling Board Action expanding Medicaid coverage to those at up to 138% of poverty ("Medicaid Expansion"), which is scheduled to be acted upon by the Controlling Board on Monday, October 21, 2013.

In our opinion, the Controlling Board may lawfully act on this request. The General Assembly authorized the Medicaid Director to seek approval for the State Plan Amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") in order to expand eligibility for Medicaid, under certain circumstances. In accordance with his lawful authority, the Medicaid Director asked CMS for approval to receive federal funds for the Medicaid Expansion of eligibility. Approval from CMS for Ohio's Medicaid Expansion was received on October 10, 2013.

The General Assembly long ago authorized the Controlling Board to increase an existing appropriation when the State receives additional federal funds beyond the original appropriation amount so that these additional federal funds can be spent. In this case, the funds will be spent on Medicaid Expansion. Consistent with his authority, the Medicaid Director has asked the Controlling Board to increase the appropriation authority which the Department of Medicaid needs in order to spend the additional federal Medicaid dollars. Through these various statutory provisions, the intent of the General Assembly is clear and the Controlling Board may lawfully act upon the Medicaid Director's request.



Press inquiries or questions should be directed to G. Ross Bridgman, Group Head of the Health Care Group at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP and Director of Vorys Health Care Advisors, a national health care and Medicaid consulting company. Mr. Bridgman may be reached at (614) 464-6338.