



February 21, 2025

To: Ohio Congressional Delegation

From: Ohio Developmental Disabilities Coalition

**RE: The Critical Role of Medicaid in Supporting Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities**

Dear Member of Ohio Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Coalition, we write to urge your continued commitment to protecting and strengthening Medicaid for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Ohio. Medicaid is the foundation of our state’s disability service system, providing essential supports across the lifespan—from respite care that helps families keep their children at home, to employment services that promote independence, to the comprehensive care provided in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) for individuals with significant medical and behavioral needs.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Coalition is a broad partnership of organizations representing people with disabilities, their families, direct support professionals, providers, and county boards of developmental disabilities. Collectively, we serve and advocate for the more than **100,000 Ohioans with I/DD who rely on Medicaid-funded services every day.**

Medicaid is not just a healthcare program—it is a **lifeline** that makes inclusion, independence, and community participation possible. It funds vital supports such as:

- **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)**, allowing individuals to live in their own homes rather than institutions.
- **Employment and day services**, helping people with disabilities find meaningful work and contribute to their communities.
- **Respite and family support services**, providing relief to caregivers so families can continue supporting their loved ones at home.
- **Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)**, which provide comprehensive, 24-hour care for individuals with complex medical and behavioral support needs.

Any cuts or structural changes that reduce access to these critical supports would have **devastating consequences for individuals with disabilities, their families, and the workforce that supports them.**

We urge you to:

1. **Protect and strengthen Medicaid funding** to ensure continued access to essential services.
2. **Oppose any proposed cuts to Medicaid Long-term Services and Supports and Home- and Community-Based Services** for people with I/DD.
3. **Reject any efforts to cap, block grant, or reduce federal Medicaid funding**, which would shift costs to states and put services at risk.

Ohioans with disabilities and their families are counting on you. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to sustain and improve these critical services. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the coalition members listed below.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

**Dana Charlton, Executive Director**

Ohio Self Determination Association  
6155 Huntley Road, Suite I  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
614.563.0788  
[Osda2011@gmail.com](mailto:Osda2011@gmail.com)

**Dan Connors, President**

Values & Faith Alliance  
c/o St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati  
10722 Wycarver Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241  
513.563.2520  
[Dconnors@stjosephhome.org](mailto:Dconnors@stjosephhome.org)

**Adam Herman, CEO**

Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB)  
*Serving People with Developmental Disabilities*  
P.O. Box 16310  
Columbus, OH 43216  
330.904.0930  
[aherman@oacbddd.org](mailto:aherman@oacbddd.org)

**Peter J. Moore, President & CEO**

Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)  
1152 Goodale Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
614.398.8353  
[pmoore@opra.org](mailto:pmoore@opra.org)

**Bethany Toledo-McCray, Executive Director**

Ohio Association of Direct Support  
Professionals (OADSP)  
P.O. Box 218145  
Columbus, OH 43221  
866-862-2322  
[btoledo@oadsp.org](mailto:btoledo@oadsp.org)

**Gary Tonks, President & CEO**

The Arc of Ohio  
1335 Dublin Rd., Suite 104-D  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614.487.4720, Ext. 114  
[gary.tonks@thearcofohio.org](mailto:gary.tonks@thearcofohio.org)

**Pete VanRunkle, Executive Director**  
Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA)  
9200 Worthington Road, Suite 110  
Westerville, OH 43082  
614.361.5169

**Kraig Walker, Director**  
**John Hannah, Past-President**  
People First of Ohio  
1335 Dublin Road, Suite 104-D  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614.487.4720  
[kraig.walker@peoplefirstohio.org](mailto:kraig.walker@peoplefirstohio.org)