

IF WE WANT AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE, WE NEED THE RIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE

OPRA's vision for a more sustainable, accountable, responsive system

Pete Moore, CEO & President, Ohio Provider Resource Association



Ohio was recently named the #1 state in the nation for doing business. That recognition reflects years of investment in infrastructure that allows businesses to locate, grow and attract people to Ohio.

We build roads and bridges. We invest in broadband, utilities and workforce development. We understand that infrastructure creates the conditions for economic growth.

Health care is infrastructure, too.

At the Ohio Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare Transformation Summit, affordability was a recurring theme. Employers are facing rising health care costs while competing for the people they need to grow. Business Group on Health reports that employers expect health care costs to increase by a median 9.2% in 2027.

One part of the affordability conversation deserves more attention: **community capacity**.

Hospitalization and emergency care are expensive. Avoidable hospital days and readmissions are expensive. When people cannot access the care and supports they need in their communities, those costs show up somewhere else.

If the community doesn't have the capacity, the hospital becomes the backstop.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are an important part of this conversation. Research shows disproportionately high health care utilization among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). One large claims-based study found children with I/DD used inpatient and emergency department care at 1.8 times the rate of the general population, with inpatient claims also substantially more expensive.

Ohio has spent decades building a community-based system for people with I/DD. At the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), we believe **people with I/DD and their families deserve great providers**. The frontline relationships between people and providers are where quality, trust, safety and outcomes become real.

Our modernization work starts with that purpose. It also recognizes that **we cannot keep doing what we have always done**. The current trajectory is not sustainable – for Ohio, the people who rely on the system or the providers responsible for delivering care.

That is why OPRA is thinking about modernization not simply as an I/DD issue, but as part of Ohio's broader health care and economic infrastructure.

We believe the system should be **sustainable, accountable and responsive**.

Sustainable means a system Ohio can afford, with rates that allow providers to sustain the expert workforce, services and capacity people need.

Accountable means a system that rewards quality, outcomes and value, not simply volume. If community capacity prevents a hospitalization, supports a successful discharge or reduces a readmission, that value should be part of the equation.

Responsive means a system that can meet different needs, including complex needs, with the right services and settings across a true continuum of care.

The bill may land on Medicaid, a commercial insurer, a hospital, a county or another part of government.

The cost is the cost.

If Ohio wants more affordable health care, we need to invest in the infrastructure that makes affordable care possible.

That is not simply an I/DD strategy. It is a health care strategy. It is an economic development strategy.

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT CLUB 1893!

Club 1893 is an innovative space that blends comfort, entertainment, and versatility, creating an ideal setting for company holiday parties, fundraisers, business meetings, happy hours, and premier sporting event viewing parties.

Located in the heart of Columbus, just steps from the Ohio Statehouse, Club 1893 offers a convenient, stylish, and engaging venue for hosting memorable gatherings.

To inquire about renting the space, please contact Denise Thompson at receptionist@ohiochamber.com

Find more information on the space and included amenities [HERE](#).

