

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
14th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 466-3100  
(800) 282-0253  
(614) 719-0000 (Fax)  
Rep34@ohiohouse.gov  
www.ohiohouse.gov

Committees

Finance  
Finance Subcommittee on Health  
and Human Services  
Health  
Joint Medicaid Oversight  
Committee  
Rules and Reference  
Ways and Means

**Emilia Strong Sykes**  
State Representative

March 15, 2018  
Director Barbara Sears  
Ohio Department of Medicaid  
50 W. Town St., Ste 400  
Columbus, OH 43215

Director Sears,

We write to express our deep concern regarding healthcare restrictions being pushed by statehouse Republicans, restrictions that will deny more than 18,000 Ohioans access to affordable healthcare and increase the burden on more than 700,000 Ohioans covered under the state's Medicaid expansion. In addition, these restrictions will come at a significant cost to taxpayers and cash-strapped communities and create an expensive bureaucracy that the state cannot afford.

In a state economy that has trailed the nation in job growth for five consecutive years and where most new jobs are low-wage, part-time work, now is not the time to impose these restrictions. These new stringent rules will force Ohioans into these low-wage, part-time jobs, further exacerbating issues of underemployment and economic mobility. In communities of color, especially, where Black Ohioans already face more than double the rate of unemployment as whites, these restrictions prove a targeted barrier to care and opportunity, and may very well violate civil rights laws.

In addition, an analysis by the Center for Community Solutions suggests these new restrictions will cost counties more than \$378 million to administer over the next five years, at a time when lawmakers continue to slash local funding, forcing counties to make tough choices about which essential services to cut.

Working people and communities across Ohio cannot afford more of the same from statehouse Republicans. Playing political games and increasing barriers to quality, affordable healthcare is wrong and puts people at risk. We urge you to rethink these proposed changes to Medicaid and focus your efforts on expanding, not denying, the right of every Ohioan to quality, affordable healthcare.

Sincerely,



Emilia Sykes  
Ohio's 34<sup>th</sup> House District



Dan Ramos  
Ohio's 56<sup>th</sup> House District



David Leland  
Ohio's 22<sup>nd</sup> House District

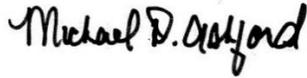


Tavia Galonski  
Ohio's 35<sup>th</sup> House District

Emilia Strong Sykes  
State Representative



Kent Smith  
Ohio's 8<sup>th</sup> House District



Michael Ashford  
Ohio's 44<sup>th</sup> House District



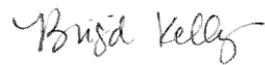
Adam Miller  
Ohio's 17<sup>th</sup> House District



Kristin Boggs  
Ohio's 18<sup>th</sup> House District



Bernadine Kennedy Kent  
Ohio's 25<sup>th</sup> House District



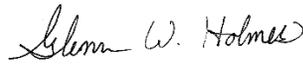
Brigid Kelly  
Ohio's 31<sup>st</sup> House District



Nicholas Celebrezze  
Ohio's 15<sup>th</sup> House District



Martin J. Sweeney  
Ohio's 14<sup>th</sup> House District



Glenn Holmes  
Ohio's 63<sup>rd</sup> House District



Michele Lepore-Hagan  
Ohio's 58<sup>th</sup> House District



Thomas West  
Ohio's 49<sup>th</sup> House District



Richard Brown  
Ohio's 20<sup>th</sup> House District



Kathleen Clyde  
Ohio's 75<sup>th</sup> House District



John Patterson  
Ohio's 99<sup>th</sup> House District



Stephanie Howse  
Ohio's 11<sup>th</sup> House District



Nickie J. Antonio  
Ohio's 13<sup>th</sup> House District



Michael Sheehy  
Ohio's 46<sup>th</sup> House District



Alicia Reece  
Ohio's 33<sup>rd</sup> House District



Janine Boyd  
Ohio's 9<sup>th</sup> House District



Teresa Fedor  
Ohio's 45<sup>th</sup> House District



John Bocchieri  
Ohio's 59<sup>th</sup> House District



Hearcel Craig  
Ohio's 26<sup>th</sup> House District



Catherine Ingram  
Ohio's 32<sup>nd</sup> House District



Michael O'Brien  
Ohio's 64<sup>th</sup> House District