

Resolution to Protect Medicaid Expansion

(Name of government entity)

Whereas, the 2014 Ohio Medicaid Expansion dramatically increased access to health care in Ohio, cutting the uninsured rate of Ohioans between the ages of 19 and 64 by more than half; and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion means formerly uninsured Ohioans now have access to treatment for chronic health conditions and mental health services, making them healthier, enabling them to lead more productive lives; and

Whereas, 75 percent of Ohioans who were unemployed and looking for work when they gained Medicaid expansion coverage said it made their job search easier. And among those who were already employed, half said Medicaid made it easier to stay working, according to the Ohio Department of Medicaid's assessment of the Medicaid Expansion Population; and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion strengthens the economy and brings billions of federal dollars to Ohio every year, creating work for nurses, medical technicians and other healthcare professionals; and

Whereas, healthy people create healthy businesses, schools and communities; and

Whereas, Governor Kasich's request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to waive existing rules so that Ohio can implement new hurdles to accessing health care, so-called work requirements, is the product of long-standing and consistent efforts to undermine the success of Medicaid expansion and will put more than 318,000 Ohioans at risk of losing their health care; and

Whereas, In _____, _____ residents are able to
(COUNTY) (NUMBER)
access health care because of Medicaid; and

Whereas, In _____, _____ residents are at risk of
(COUNTY) (NUMBER)
losing access to health care due to these proposed requirements; and

Whereas, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have authority to approve or disapprove Ohio's Medicaid waiver request; and



Whereas, Work requirements for food assistance via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), have already been tried in Ohio with devastating results; and

Whereas, The Ohio Association of Foodbanks found that hundreds of thousands fewer Ohioans are enrolled in SNAP since the resumption of work requirements in October of 2013; and

Whereas, taking away someone's access to mental health services or cutting him or her off from treatment for a chronic health condition will NOT help him or her get or keep a job; and

Whereas, the low-wage job market is volatile and unpredictable and there are no guarantees employers like Wal-Mart and McDonald's will consistently schedule Medicaid enrollees for the hours mandated by work requirements; and

Whereas, people who depend on the Medicaid expansion for health care coverage, are largely low-income, non-elderly adults with multiple barriers to employment, including chronic health conditions, mental health issues, lack of access to reliable transportation, and affordable child care; and

Whereas, new requirements create unnecessary, unhelpful and potentially insurmountable barriers to health care and employment for these individuals; and

Whereas, new hurdles for accessing Medicaid would hurt _____
(COUNTY)
residents and our local economy; and

Whereas, numerous health and human service organizations, anti-poverty and health experts and other entities working with and in low-income communities have come out against adding new requirements on work; and

Whereas, implementing these new requirements would increase the administrative burden and expense of state and local governments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the _____
(Name of government entity)
urges the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to disapprove the State of Ohio's Medicaid waiver request that would force harmful cuts to Medicaid Expansion enrollment and increase the rate of uninsured in Ohio.

