



Press statement

For immediate release
November 7, 2012

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Medicaid expansion would help 900,000 Ohioans Election means health reform here to stay, Ohio should take full advantage

With the election decided, it is now clear that the nation's health reform law – the Affordable Care Act – is here to stay. That's great news for Ohioans who have already begun to benefit from the law and will see more gains as major provisions of the law take effect in 2014.

To reap the law's biggest gains and bring affordable health insurance to up to 900,000 Ohioans, our policymakers must now move forward quickly to get ready for 2014.

Medicaid expansion is a great deal for Ohio

Our governor and legislators should prepare to expand Medicaid in 2014 to help thousands in Ohio get the quality health care they need. The federal government will pay most of the costs, covering 100 percent of Medicaid for newly eligible Ohioans during the first three years and 90 percent after 2019. Replacing emergency-room care with preventive treatment could save Ohio health providers between \$1.1 billion and \$2.3 billion between 2014 and 2019.

Failing to expand Medicaid would leave hundreds of thousands of struggling Ohioans out in the cold: too poor to afford insurance but not eligible for Medicaid. At the same time it would squander the opportunity to pump \$17.3 billion in new federal money into the state economy between 2014 and 2019.

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*Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit, nonpartisan state policy research institute
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