

April 4, 2024

The Honorable D.J. Swearingen  
U.S. House of Representative for Ohio

The Honorable Theresa Gavarone  
U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear members of Congress,

My name is Destiny Hamman, and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. The school I go to is a hospital-based diploma program. I graduate in May of 2024 and plan to stay in the Erie County area to work.

I am writing to bring to your attention the concerns of rising healthcare costs in our state. Access to affordable healthcare is a fundamental right that many Ohioans are struggling to afford. I urge you to consider implementing policies that lower the cost of healthcare and improve access to essential services for all residents. People are living less healthy lifestyles due to not being able to afford a basic human right. Our state is ranked ninth from the bottom of worst health. That means our state is in the top ten for worst health-related issues.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Ohio in 2023. There are ways to prevent this from being the leading cause of death, and that would be creating an Affordable Care Act. An Affordable Care Act would create low-priced insurance for people who do not get offered it through their jobs or even from the government. Some people are unable to receive Medicaid and thus need lower health insurance. 5.9% of our population is uninsured, and that percentage could be a portion of the leading cause of death in Ohio. Let's create a healthy state and start offering better ways for your people to be able to afford these visits to prevent heart disease and other morbidities that are health-related.

Sincerely,

Destiny Hamman

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