

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Theresa Gavarone

U.S Senator for Ohio

Dear Ohio State Senator:

My name is Paige Knupke and I am currently a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky Ohio. I am writing to you as a concerned resident as well as a nursing student who is passionate about the healthcare field. I want to bring your attention to the issue of healthcare coverage and access to medical care, which requires urgent consideration and attention.

The ACA's Medicaid expansion has been a crucial resource for healthcare coverage for low-income individuals in Ohio, helping thousands gain access to necessary care. Even with all the people it helps, there are still many residents of Ohio who are uninsured or underinsured and unable to get the care they need. The increase in Medicaid coverage has been shown to decrease the number of uninsured individuals and improve health outcomes, but we still need to guarantee that residents of Ohio have the coverage necessary to maintain proper health.

We need support for policies that expand coverage, remove barriers to access, and ensure that people can receive the care they need regardless of their income. By expanding access to healthcare, we can improve health outcomes, reduce preventable hospitalizations, and ensure that every person has the opportunity to live a healthy life.

As someone currently studying nursing, I see the direct impact that insurance has on patients' ability to access care. Insurance expansion allows individuals to receive timely treatment and preventive services, which is crucial for healthy living. Expanding Medicaid/ other insurances will not only help low-income individuals but will also reduce the strain on emergency departments and improve the efficiency of our healthcare system.

I urge you to advocate and address policies that ensure all residents have access to healthcare, and that we continue to support Medicaid expansion in our state. Please let me know your stance on this issue and what steps you plan to take to address it.

Thank you for your time and service to our state. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Paige E Knupke, Student Nurse

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