



Ohio Children's Hospital Association

Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

For immediate release

January 15, 2013

Michael Fisher, Chairman, Ohio Children's Hospital Association Board of Directors, and President & CEO, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, today issued the following statement regarding possible Medicaid Expansion in Ohio:

To ensure that we have a strong, healthy workforce in the future, Ohio's children must have access to high quality health care when they need it. The only way to do this is through stable, predictable funding mechanisms for children's health care in our state. When considering any significant changes to Ohio's Medicaid program, it is critical to understand that Medicaid is the single most important public policy issue and funding vehicle affecting the stability of children's health care access and coverage in Ohio.

Like other states, Ohio is currently debating Medicaid eligibility expansion to include childless adults. As children's hospitals, we recognize the potential benefit of doing so. However, children's hospitals need to ensure there are no negative consequences for those who already provide a disproportionate share of care to Medicaid patients. Ohio's children's hospitals have the highest share of Medicaid patients of any provider group in the state, averaging 51 percent. This compares to general hospitals, which average only about 12 percent Medicaid caseload. Any expansion of Medicaid to additional adult populations has the potential to pull precious resources from child health and children's hospitals who provide acute and long-term, high-quality care for sick children.

Understandably, the primary concern of Ohio's children's hospitals is protecting the more than 1.2 million Ohio children who rely on Medicaid for health care coverage. Our responsibility is to ensure they continue to get the care they need should nearly one million uninsured adult Ohioans also join the Medicaid population.

We look forward to working closely with Ohio lawmakers, Governor Kasich's administration and, specifically, Ohio Office of Health Transformation Director Moody and Ohio Medicaid Director McCarthy to ensure that funding remains stable for current participants in Ohio's Medicaid program, with children's health care being a top priority.

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More information about the Ohio Children's Hospital Association is available at ohiochildrenshospitals.org.
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