



**Advocates for Ohio's Future**  
101 E. Town Street, Suite 520  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-221-4945 ext. 4  
[www.advocatesforohio.org](http://www.advocatesforohio.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 21, 2018

**CONTACT**

Mark Davis, 513-218-5991  
Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, 614-271-4803  
Kelsey Bergfeld, 614-221-4945

**Advocates for Ohio's Future Statement on Medicaid Expansion Assessment  
Media Statement from Mark Davis and Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Co-Chairs of  
Advocates for Ohio's Future:**

On behalf of nearly 500 health and human service organizations across the state, we are thankful for Governor Kasich and Director Sears' leadership in expanding Medicaid coverage and maintaining access to care for over 1.2 million Ohioans over the last four years.

The evaluation of Ohio's Medicaid Expansion program released today conclusively demonstrates that boosting access to health care by expanding Medicaid coverage has been critical to the health, financial stability and employment of hundreds of thousands of Ohioans.

Without access to health care through Medicaid expansion, people struggling with chronic illnesses, including mental health issues and addiction would have few options for treatment. Many would not be able to afford the care and medications they need in order to provide food and shelter for their families, go to school or succeed in the workplace.

Stories from Medicaid expansion beneficiaries confirm that health comes first on the path to self-sufficiency and living a fulfilled life. By addressing her health care needs and receiving access to medication through Medicaid expansion, Roxanne Funk, a direct support professional at a facility for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Marion County, is now able to work full time at a job she loves and provide for her children.

We hope our state lawmakers appreciate the remarkable successes of Ohio's Medicaid expansion as demonstrated by this report. We urge them to continue to recognize not only the improved health and stability outcomes from Medicaid expansion, but the financial outcomes and savings the program affords our state. As Budget Director Tim Keen stated: "Medicaid expansion is manageable and affordable now and into the future.

Protecting the Medicaid expansion remains a top priority for Advocates for Ohio's Future. We will continue our efforts to strengthen families and communities by ensuring access to health care for all.