



## Advocates for Ohio's Future

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

June 25, 2013

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### Finish Ohio's Business: Take a Vote on Health Care Expansion

With less than a week until lawmakers leave Columbus, Advocates for Ohio's Future delivered a letter to Senate President Faber and House Speaker Batchelder encouraging legislative leaders to "finish Ohio's business and take a vote on Medicaid expansion."

According to a recent study, 63% of Ohioans support health care expansion. "The majority of Ohioans understand that health care expansion will strengthen families, communities and the economy in Ohio, so it's time for our state leaders to stand up and take a vote," said Will Petrik, State Director of Advocates for Ohio's Future.

In the executive version of the state budget, Governor Kasich included the provision to extend Medicaid to families up to 138% of the federal poverty level, but the Ohio House removed the provision in their version.

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future, stated, "We've been talking about this issue for months now, and we believe a bipartisan majority of lawmakers will support extending health care coverage to strengthen communities and the economy in Ohio." Channing Tenenbaum continued, "Ohio still has important unfinished business; the time is now for leaders in the House and the Senate to take a vote on extending health care coverage to 26,000 veterans and thousands of low wage workers, including persons with mental illness, addiction, and treatable chronic illnesses like hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease."

If Ohio fails to pass Medicaid expansion, workers, families, Ohio businesses, and rural hospitals will suffer the consequences. Mark Davis, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future said, "Ohio needs to finish its business. Leaving unfinished business will cost business \$58 – 88 million per year in penalties, some of Ohio's rural hospitals may have to close their doors, and thousands of hardworking Ohioans will continue to face a future without needed health care."