



Advocates for Ohio's Future

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MEDICAID EXPANSION WILL STRENGTHEN OHIO'S ECONOMY, COMMUNITIES AND THE STATE BUDGET

COLUMBUS – Medicaid expansion will strengthen Ohio's economy and thousands of families and communities while maintaining fiscal responsibility in the state budget, according to a new non-partisan report released Tuesday morning. The analysis was presented by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, The Ohio State University, the Urban Institute and Regional Economic Models, Inc.

By offering health care coverage to more Ohioans, Governor Kasich and the state legislature have a historic opportunity to strengthen Ohio's economy. Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future, praised the work of this collaboration. Channing Tenenbaum stated, "Medicaid expansion will position Ohio to fill thousands of health care jobs, make Ohioans more competitive, and continue important reforms that are transforming health care delivery."

Overall, the analysis found that Medicaid expansion will reduce the number of uninsured, increase Ohio employment and earnings, help local governments and lower health care costs for Ohio employers and residents.

While the analysis found that expansion will result in additional costs for the state, it demonstrates that those costs are more than covered by other state savings and revenues also resulting from Medicaid expansion through 2022.

Opting in to the Medicaid expansion will provide coverage for roughly 500,000 uninsured Ohioans at no cost to the state of Ohio for three years. After that, the federal share will decrease to 90% by 2020 – a significantly greater federal share than that for the existing Medicaid program. Co-Chair Mark Davis stated, "This new research reinforces our belief that Medicaid expansion can be implemented in Ohio in a way that will strengthen the health and economic security of communities in Ohio, especially for families who don't get coverage through work or can't afford it on their own. It will also create over 30,000 new health care jobs in the state of Ohio by 2022."

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Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition of over 325 local and statewide organizations that works to maintain vital public services – health, human services, and early care & education – to strengthen families and communities in Ohio.