



## Advocates for Ohio's Future

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 19, 2013

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## **ADVOCATES FOR OHIO'S FUTURE PRAISES THE GOVERNOR FOR EXPANDING MEDICAID**

COLUMBUS – This evening, Governor Kasich discussed his vision for Ohio in the State of the State address. The Governor highlighted his decision to include the extension of health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans in his proposed state budget. This decision will strengthen Ohio's health care economy, improve the health of thousands of families and communities, and continue comprehensive reforms to Ohio Medicaid.

*The following quotes can be attributed to Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future:*

"Tonight Gov. John Kasich again showed he cares about strengthening families and communities in Ohio. The Governor has courageously proposed to extend health coverage to 275,000 while safeguarding Ohio taxpayers. Medicaid extension will boost to Ohio's economy by making Ohioans healthier—healthy citizens build strong communities, and healthy workers strengthen Ohio's economy."

"Two years ago, state government began transforming Medicaid in Ohio. We are encouraged by movement in this state budget to prioritize home and community based services, rebuild the community behavioral health system capacity, and enhance community developmental disabilities services."

*The following quotes can be attributed to Mark Davis, Co-Chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future:*

"Advocates for Ohio's Future strongly urges the Ohio House to extend health coverage to low income workers and their families. If Ohio chooses not to extend Medicaid, Ohio taxpayers will pay an additional \$404 million over the next two years and lose \$2.4 billion in Ohioans' federal tax dollars that would come into Ohio (\$13 billion over seven years). We can't afford not to extend Medicaid in the state budget."

"Ohio's economy is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in our economy. Yet, 400,000 Ohioans are looking for work and employers report difficulty finding qualified applicants for open positions. The Jobs 2.0 Budget focuses on jobs, but Ohio can do more to create good jobs and career opportunities for all Ohioans. If people can't maintain what economists call "Basic Spending" levels – on things like food, rent, health care, and transportation – then the entire economy suffers. By investing in public services that make Ohio's workforce more competitive, we can strengthen our economy."

Advocates for Ohio's Future is also looking at how the proposed tax reform impacts families and communities in Ohio, and we will work to make sure the tax breaks are aimed at people that need them most.

*Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition of over 350 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.*