



## On Medicaid expansion, Governor Kasich should know better.

- Medicaid unfairly subjects the poor to the worst health outcomes of any health care plan,<sup>1</sup> and is rife with fraud.<sup>2</sup>
- Projections show costs will explode and devastate Ohio's budget.<sup>3</sup> It's a fool's bargain; the debt ridden federal government cannot possibly sustain the promised subsidies.<sup>4</sup>
- Thousands of Ohioans will lose their existing coverage as private insurers are crowded out of the market.<sup>5</sup>

Call and ask the Governor to reconsider, but most important, **call your state legislators to politely insist they vote NO on Medicaid expansion in Ohio.** Contacts: <http://www.ohio.gov/government/state>

## Medicaid Needs Reform, Not Expansion

Medicaid is a broken system with poor health outcomes, out of control costs, and well documented waste and fraud. **It needs to be reformed, not expanded.** Let's not implement more of the unpopular health law.

Governor Kasich says Ohio should accept federal money to expand the Medicaid system, even though The Supreme Court made it clear we are not required to. He argues that: (1) *If we don't, Ohio taxpayer money will go to other states.* Wrong. The federal offer is an open ended promise to subsidize Medicaid expansion state by state. It's not a fixed pie with a slice for each state. The pie grows to accommodate whichever states get duped into taking the bait. If Ohio says no, the pie won't grow as much, Ohio's budget will be saved, and our children will have less debt. (2) *Without more Medicaid money, he says, hospitals will be financially harmed and some may even close.* This is based on highly speculative assumptions which underestimate the costs of a dramatically expanded Medicaid population, and overestimate the expected reduction in emergency room visits by uninsured patients. The truth is here: <http://ohio.mediatracker.org/2013/03/05/hospital-lobby-cannot-justify-medicaid-expansion> and here: <http://www.opportunityohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Thoughts-from-National-Health-Care-Experts.pdf> (see page 4 regarding hospitals and state and federal funding)

The real answer lies in free market reforms to empower low income workers to gain the dignity and better health outcomes offered by private health care insurance. <http://www.galen.org/topics/medicaid-patients-deserve-the-dignity-of-private-insurance> **Medicaid expansion takes this option away from thousands.**<sup>6</sup>

**Call your state legislators to politely insist they vote NO on Medicaid expansion in Ohio.**

Contacts: <http://www.ohiohouse.gov> <http://www.ohiosenate.gov> Governor's office: (614) 466-3555

<sup>1</sup> LaPar DJ et al., Primary payer status affects mortality for major surgical operations. *Annals of Surgery*. 2010 Sep; 252(3): 544–51. <sup>2</sup> Michael F. Cannon, "Entitlement Bandits," *National Review*, July 4, 2011 <sup>3</sup> <http://www.heritage.org/multimedia/infographic/2013/03/medicaid-expansion/ohio> <sup>4</sup> Office of Management and Budget, Fiscal Year 2013: Cuts, Consolidations, and Savings <sup>5</sup> Steven D. Pizer, Austin B. Frakt, and Lisa I. Iezzoni, "The Effect of Health Reform on Public and Private Insurance in the Long Run," Mar 9, 2011 <sup>6</sup> <http://docsquads.org/medicaid-expansion-vs-exchange-subsidies>, PPACA law section 2201 For additional information references, visit [www.healthcaredisaster.org](http://www.healthcaredisaster.org)