June 21, 2021

Senate President Matt Huffman, House Speaker Bob Cupp, and Am. Sub. House Bill 110 Conferees,

The leaders of Advocates for Ohio’s Future (AOF) and the undersigned organizations, health care providers and constituents unite to voice our opposition to the proposed termination of the Medicaid managed care procurement process as passed by the Senate in Am. Sub. House Bill 110. The termination would effectively derail crucial efforts to refocus, improve, and personalize the delivery of Medicaid services to individuals while containing costs.

The managed care procurement, pharmacy benefit manager reform, provider paperwork reduction and the OhioRISE program were informed through an extensive outreach and feedback process with Medicaid patients, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders. AOF and our extensive membership of state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations worked hand-in-hand with the Department of Medicaid (ODM) to organize a statewide listening tour for ODM staff and leadership to hear directly from Medicaid patients and providers about the shortcomings of the current system, including Ohio’s underachievement in quality, value and health outcomes for children and families. ODM also provided additional opportunities for Medicaid patients, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders to offer written input through multiple, publicly available Requests for Information (RFI) processes.

Currently, Ohio is ranked 47th in achieving value, with existing contractors notably underperforming in regards to children’s health and the management of chronic diseases. While the current contracts use competition to drive better outcomes, successfully, more can and should be done. But you cannot simply eliminate one part of systemic reform and systemic results. Indeed, the contractual, operational and financial design of the totality of these managed care reforms are interdependent and cannot be isolated from one another through an amendment. That also means any savings realized from existing work, and the Department’s budget itself, would have to be significantly recalculated if procurement is not protected.

While it is reasonable to expect our state’s contractual processes support vendors that create Ohio jobs, it’s worthy to note the procurement will likely net more jobs than the current system with the inclusion of new market entrants. What’s more, unlike some of the insurance companies that failed to win the bid, awardees will provide service to all Ohioans - not just those in regions they cherry-pick for their investment.

Terminating the Ohio managed care procurement leaves behind rural Ohioans, is anti-competitive and dismantles the years-long legislative work to stop pharmacy middle-manning, improve care and coordination for patients including nearly 60,000 multi-system youth, end custody relinquishment and save significant dollars in reduced overhead.

This important and innovative process should not be delayed. We urge you to remove the procurement provisions Comp Doc MCDCD 42 and MCDCD 43 from the budget bill.
Sincerely,
Advocates for Ohio’s Future

**AOF Steering Committee Members**

Tara Britton, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, The Center for Community Solutions

Tracy Nájera, Executive Director, Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio

Megan Riddlebarger, Executive Director, Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development

Jordan Ballinger, Policy Director, Disability Rights Ohio

Michael Corey, Executive Director, Human Service Chamber of Franklin County

Beth Kowalczyk, Chief Policy Officer, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Kelly Carey, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Ohio Association of Community Health Centers

Joree Novotny, Director of External Affairs, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

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Teresa Lampl, CEO, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

Gretchen Behimer, President, Ohio Family & Children First Coordinators Association

Melissa Cropper, President, Ohio Federation of Teachers

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Wendy Patton, Senior Project Director, Policy Matters Ohio

Angela Sausser, Executive Director, Public Children Services Association of Ohio

Steven A. Wager, Executive Director, UHCAN Ohio

**AOF Endorsing Organizations**

Emily Gallion, Advocacy Manager, The Foodbank, Inc.

Linda Jakes, Executive Director, Concord Counseling Services

Lynanne Gutierrez, Assistant Director and Legal Counsel, Groundwork Ohio

Steve Carrel, CEO, Muskingum Behavioral Health

Brittney Madison, Chair, Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality/NOBLE

Barbara Riley, Volunteer Chair, Ohio Aging Advocacy Coalition

Debbie Silverstein, State Director, Single Payer Action Network Ohio

**Health Care Providers**

Daphne Kackloulis, Chief Public Policy & Administrative Officer, Equitas Health

Juanita Higgins, RN Foster/Adoption Nurse, Life Start Inc.

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**Organizations**

Dustin Holfinger, State Government Relations Director, American Heart Association

Laura Baird, Board President, Autism Society Central Ohio
Organizations cont.

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Dawn Glenny, CEO, Greenleaf Family Center

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Antonio Travis, Executive Director, Inner-Circle Communities

Jeff Liedtke, Service Coordinator, Madison County Family & Children First Council

Nicol Ghazi, Executive Director, Muslim Family Services of Ohio

Norman Wernet, President, Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund

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Gabriella Celeste, Policy Director, Schubert Center for Child Studies, Case Western Reserve University

Mark Spieles, CEO, Westwood Behavioral Health Center

Melanie VanDyne, Co-Interim Executive Director, Director of Operations, Wood County Children’s Services Association

Concerned Constituents cont.

Gale Bromelmeier, Willoughby, OH
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Lynn Buffington, Beavercreek, OH
Bryan Bumgarner, Richwood, OH
Mark Butler, Whitehall, OH
The Rev. Mary Carson, Cincinnati, OH
James Collins, Cleveland, OH
Marah Derzon, New Albany, OH
Gemma Doll, Columbus, OH
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Laura Jeanne Eldridge, London, OH
Dot Erickson-Anderson, Columbus, OH
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Jerry Freewalt, Columbus, OH
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Courtney Ingram, Akron, OH
Patrick Kanary, Cleveland Heights, OH
Don King, Kent, OH
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Concerned Constituents

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