



MT. SINAI
HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

Mitchell Balk, president

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation is disappointed to see inaction in Columbus on Medicaid expansion despite such broad support from the faith based community, health providers, consumers, hospitals, businesses, and philanthropy. There is no policy decision that has greater potential to improve health access and improve the health status of Ohioans than that of extending Medicaid coverage.

The data released by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio provided justification for this policy decision. All 88 counties in Ohio are projected to realize a drop in their uninsured rate, an increase in tax revenue and an increase in employment because of Medicaid expansion. Without expansion, more than 370,000 Ohioans are projected to have no access to affordable health coverage and will likely remain uninsured which only leads to increases in premiums for those who are insured to cover for the uncompensated care.

Health coverage should not remain “unfinished business.” Since legislature leaders have made a commitment to continue work on Medicaid, we call on Speaker Batchelder and President Faber to schedule summer session dates. We are hopeful based on the statements from House Finance Committee Chairman Ron Amstutz that committee hearings will begin shortly after the July 4th holiday.

We will persevere in our efforts to work with the legislature as they seek to address Medicaid reforms, however timing is critical. In order to ensure appropriate implementation, Ohio Medicaid needs time to make changes in their systems and apply the changes through rulemaking procedures. This doesn’t happen with a simple flipping of a switch.

Ohio cannot afford to wait... we need to move forward working together in a collaborative fashion to improve the quality and efficiency of the Medicaid program and to move forward on a pathway that benefits Ohio residents, taxpayers, businesses, veterans, health providers, and the Ohio economy.

Ohio foundations, including Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, are committed to improving the health of Ohio residents, awarding over \$200 million in health focused grants in an average year. These dollars, however, pale in comparison to the resources that expanded health coverage can provide.