



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**19 Northeast Ohio Cities Endorse Extension of Healthcare Coverage**  
*First Suburbs Consortium Passes Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion*

Member Municipalities:

Bedford  
Bedford Heights  
Berea  
Brook Park  
Brooklyn  
Brooklyn Heights  
Cleveland Heights  
East Cleveland  
Euclid  
Fairview Park  
Garfield Heights  
Lakewood  
Maple Heights  
Parma  
Parma Heights  
Shaker Heights  
South Euclid  
University Heights  
Warrensville Heights

CUYAHOGA COUNTY – During the last meeting of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, members unanimously voted in favor of a resolution supporting Governor Kasich’s proposal to extend Medicaid coverage.

“There are over 72,000 uninsured persons across Cuyahoga County who fall into the coverage gap,” stated Chairman Earl Leiken, Mayor of Shaker Heights. “And this isn’t just a problem in the urban center, this is something that’s happening in our suburban communities, which represent over 38% of the County’s population. Something has to be done.”

The Resolution was also supported by the Northeast Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition or NEO-MEC. NEO-MEC is a partnership of religious congregations, health care providers, businesses, and advocates working together to close the coverage gap in the state of Ohio. MetroHealth officials were at the meeting to provide background on why the hospitals are supportive of this action.

“Mayors see firsthand the impact when people in their communities lose their health insurance or can’t afford it,” stated John Corlett, VP of Government Relations at MetroHealth. “That’s why it’s so important that they’re supporting Ohio’s plan to extend Medicaid coverage to uninsured, low-wage working adults in Cuyahoga County and across Ohio”

Copies of the resolution were sent to the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor’s office to illustrate the communities’ support.