

The Columbus Dispatch

Letter to the Editor: Cuts to Medicaid would be costly

Written by: Steve Wagner, 4/23/16

In his April 12 letter “Program trims costs to preserve coverage,” Greg Lawson of the Buckeye Institute got the most important point right — all Ohioans deserve quality health care.

The expansion of Medicaid provided quality health care to the needy who could not otherwise afford preventive care and treatment. The legislatively required waiver request, which should be known as #NotHealthy4Ohio, increases administrative costs and creates a barrier to quality health care for the neediest.

A study by the RAND corporation shows that requiring our lowest-income neighbors and friends to pay for health-care costs makes them put off getting important preventive care, and instead going to the doctor only when the problem is severe. This “sick care” drives up health-care costs in the long term.

If the intention of this proposal is to reduce Medicaid spending while increasing healthy families, it is misguided. People are most responsible and productive when they can get the care they need to keep working and keep their families healthy.

The federal government should reject Ohio’s waiver request.

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