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## **UHCAN Ohio Submits Comments on “Not Healthy for Ohio” Waiver**

*Proposal doesn't meet waiver criteria and will cause thousands of low-income Ohioans to lose quality, health coverage.*

COLUMBUS, OH – Today, UHCAN Ohio (Universal Health Care Action Network Ohio), submitted comments to the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) in response to the proposed 1115 Demonstration waiver.

UHCAN Ohio's comments explain how the proposed waiver does not meet the criteria the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) uses to evaluate an 1115 demonstration proposal, highlighting how it will;

- worsen health outcomes for low income Ohioans, especially those facing the highest rates of health disparities
- reduce access to care by imposing premiums and establishing complex health savings accounts
- hurt the efficiency and quality of care provided by Ohio's Medicaid program.

“It's unfortunate ODM has no choice but to submit this proposal; in no way, shape, or form, does it meet the federal government's 1115 demonstration waiver criteria,” said Steve Wagner, Executive Director, UHCAN Ohio.

UHCAN Ohio is one of many organizations who have weighed in on how this proposal is not healthy for Ohio. “As a statewide Certified Application Counselor organization that has spent the last 2 years enrolling over 1500 Ohioans with low income, our input reflects how these changes would *really* affect people with Medicaid coverage,” said Nita Carter, Project Director, UHCAN Ohio.

UHCAN Ohio is encouraging Ohioans enrolled in Medicaid and the people and organizations that care about them to make sure they submit their input to ODM by the May 16<sup>th</sup> deadline.

“This isn't a done deal. It's important for anyone who is enrolled in Medicaid or knows someone who is, to tell the federal government to reject this proposal. Raising our voices together in opposition to this proposal is critical to protect Ohioans and their families so they can get the care they need to live healthier lives, said Wagner.”

For more information on how to submit input by the May 16<sup>th</sup> deadline, visit [www.uhcanohio.org/healthyohiomedicaidwaiver](http://www.uhcanohio.org/healthyohiomedicaidwaiver)

*UHCAN Ohio is a statewide non-partisan, non-profit organization building the voice of consumers to achieve quality, affordable, accessible health coverage for all Ohioans. [www.uhcanohio.org](http://www.uhcanohio.org)*

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