



Testimony

**Group VIII Work Requirement and Community Engagement  
1115 Demonstration Waiver**

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I offer my comments in opposition to the Group VIII Work Requirement and Community Engagement 1115 Demonstration Waiver. I am Steve Wagner, Executive Director of the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio. UHCAN Ohio is a non-profit organization committed to assuring everyone's access to affordable, quality health care.

Work requirements are a punishment that is contrary to the purpose of the Medicaid program. The statutory purpose of Medicaid is "to furnish...medical assistance" to individuals "whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the costs of necessary medical services." Denying eligibility based on work status does not promote coverage and is not within the purpose of Medicaid.

An 1115 waiver is demonstration intended to foster innovation that improves the health of the population. It is not intended to be a way for States to simply change the rules to save money, create barriers, and cut people from coverage

ODM proposes an evaluation to determine whether the demonstration improves health outcomes. The evaluation is flawed by design and will not show the full negative impact that these requirements will have on health in Ohio. The evaluation described in the proposal will only look at outcomes for "pre- and post-1115 Demonstration waiver members." However, it is necessary to examine the health outcomes of not just those who remain covered under Medicaid but also those who lose coverage.

ODM estimated that of the 36,000 Ohioans who do not meet the exemptions, 18,000 people would lose health care coverage. The 18,000, or vastly more, who lose coverage will undoubtedly have worse health outcomes. They are unlikely to receive preventive care, timely treatment and access to a medical home. We can accurately predict their health outcome will be poor. Yet, these people with lost health care coverage will not be part of the evaluation.

Others will also be excluded. Those who are already working to their potential are being subjected to bureaucracy and red tape. There is no need to do a study to find out what happens when people have more red tape. Errors occur. Forms get lost. People have challenges navigating the system. People who would otherwise have health care will lose coverage and suffer diminished health

Those who remain covered get no additional benefits, only additional paperwork and red tape. The administrative burden will be difficult for people whose lives are already chaotic as they try to live on too little money. People who remain covered under Medicaid will not see health improvement as a result of the waiver.



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Everyone deserves access to health care coverage without burdensome barriers. Medicaid allows people to become healthy so that they can work, care for others and be part of their community. The State of Ohio should improve access to health care for all its people not create burdens and barriers. I oppose this waiver.