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| **Metropolitan****Area****Religious** **Coalition of****Cincinnati**30 W. Garfield Pl, Suite 730Cincinnati, Ohio 45202Phone 513.721.4843Fax 513.721.4891Email marcc@marcconline.comWeb www.marcconline.comAmerican Baptist Churches USAMiami AssociationArchdiocese of CincinnatiBaptist Ministers Conference of Cincinnati and VicinityCincinnati Conference (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)Cincinnati Islamic Community CenterDiocese of Southern Ohio (Episcopal)Disciples of Christ – SW OhioInterdenominational Ministers AllianceJCRC of The Jewish FederationOhio River Valley District (United Methodist Church)Presbytery of CincinnatiReligious Society of FriendsUnitarian Universalist Council of Greater CincinnatiUnited Church of ChristVolunteers of AmericaOf Greater OhioChelsea Bennett*President*Nancy Walters*Vice President*Reverend Robert Dye*Vice President* F. Lee Meyer*Secretary*David Tietsort*Assistant Secretary* Robert Ehrsam*Treasurer* Margaret A. Fox*Executive Director* Angela Wright*Office & Technology Manager* |

April 20, 2018

The Honorable John R. Kasich

Governor – State of Ohio

Riffe Center, 30th Floor

77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Phone: (614) 466-3555

RE: MARCC Opposes Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver

Dear Governor Kasich,

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati resounded with heartfelt praise and when Ohio’s Governor signed Ohio up for Medicaid Expansion three years ago. MARCC, an interfaith coalition of judicatories (denominations), asks you now not to submit the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver. It will not expand eligibility, simplify enrollment, or reform care delivery. This new state waiver is being used to impose work requirements on people, who desperately need Medicaid, yet may have a significant challenge finding work.

This work requirement would be difficult for the single parent mom who teeters on the poverty line due to income requirements – she is penalized when she works because she earns too much income ($9 hr.) to qualify for childcare. If she stays home, under the 1115 Waiver she will not qualify for Medicaid.

Under the new requirements, workers will lose health care coverage, people who have lost their job through no fault of their own will struggle to find work. Without health care coverage, they will lose preventive care and will not get care until they need hospital care. It will add to existing deficits in urban Ohio counties – Hamilton, Cuyahoga and Franklin. Hospitals and health care programs that serve the poor and working poor will lose compensation, affecting care and much needed community health outreach programs.

Governor, MARCC is asking you to take right action, to do justice with a compassionate heart, even if it means standing alone. You’ve done it before. We know you can do it again! Please do not sign the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver if you care about the health of Ohioans.

Respectfully,

 

Chelsea Bennett Margaret A. Fox

President Executive Director