



Media Release

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Statement on Ohio House of Representatives Decision to Maintain Medicaid Freeze Veto

[Cleveland, Ohio] Statement by John R. Corlett, President and Executive Director of The Center for Community Solutions, and former Ohio Medicaid Director, on the Ohio House of Representatives Decision to Maintain Medicaid Freeze Veto:

“The Center for Community Solutions applauds the Ohio House of Representatives for not overriding the Governor’s veto of a state budget provision that would have frozen Medicaid expansion enrollment and resulted in over half a million Ohioans ultimately losing their health care coverage.”

“Ohio took a courageous step over four years ago when the state expanded Medicaid in Ohio and brought relief to the thousands suffering with mental illness, chronic disease, and those battling addiction to opiates.”

“A Medicaid freeze would have removed the path to recovery that many Ohioans seek. Of the \$1 billion Ohio has spent to combat opioid abuse and other drug addictions in 2016, an estimated \$650 million was paid for by Medicaid for drug addiction and behavioral health services, including \$279 million that was made available because of Medicaid expansion “.

“Community Solutions was concerned that the proposed Medicaid freeze would have worsened Ohio’s benefit cliff and would have had the unintended result of making it more difficult for Ohio’s working families to move up and out of poverty and off of public assistance.”

*A nonprofit, non-partisan think tank founded in 1913, **The Center for Community Solutions** focuses on solutions to health, social and economic issues. With offices in Cleveland and Columbus, Community Solutions identifies, analyzes, and explains key health, social, and economic data and issues, and proposes non-partisan solutions to improve the lives of Ohioans. For more information, visit www.CommunitySolutions.com and follow us on [Facebook.com/CommunitySols](https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySols); [Twitter @CommunitySols](https://twitter.com/CommunitySols); and Instagram [@Community_Solutions](https://www.instagram.com/Community_Solutions)*