



The Case for Expanding Medicaid

Too many of our neighbors can't afford health insurance. One of the main goals of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is to make it possible for many of them to obtain health insurance.

One way the ACA does this is by insuring low-income Americans through an expansion of Medicaid beginning in 2014. The U.S. Supreme Court made that expansion optional for the states. Kentucky Governor Beshear has already announced that he intends to expand Medicaid in Kentucky. Ohio Governor Kasich will announce early next month whether Ohio will expand Medicaid.

The mission of the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati is to improve the health of our community so that this is one of the healthiest regions in the country. The Health Foundation works with many other organizations in the pursuit of this goal.

The Foundation believes that Medicaid expansion is in the best interest of our region for the following reasons:

- More than 400,000 Ohio and 288,000 Kentucky adults will gain insurance, many for the first time.
- Data show that insured people are healthier than those who are uninsured.
- Healthier people are more productive workers and stronger contributors to the community.
- States have no additional cost for the first three years.
- Data from other states show the increased economic activity caused by the expansion covers the cost of expansion.
- Private insurance costs should be lower because additional premiums will not be needed to cover the health care costs of the uninsured.
- Federal tax dollars paid by the citizens of Ohio and Kentucky will be spent on Medicaid expansion in Ohio and Kentucky, not disbursed to other states to pay for their Medicaid expansion.

Access to health care means healthier people. And a healthier community benefits all of us. The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati believes that Medicaid expansion will help our region become one of the healthiest in the country.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Schwab".

Jim Schwab
President and CEO

Our mission is to improve the health of the people of the Cincinnati region.

Our vision is to be one of the healthiest regions in the country.

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