



# Mental Health Advocacy Coalition

*Changing minds, changing lives*

February 7, 2013

Governor John Kasich  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

Thank you for taking a stand for low income Ohioans, especially those with mental illnesses and addiction disorders, by including Medicaid expansion in your executive budget. By extending Medicaid benefits to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, many individuals needing treatment services for both physical and behavioral health disorders will have coverage for their treatment.

Access to behavioral health treatment services and recovery supports is a significant challenge for many Ohioans. When mental illnesses and addiction disorders go untreated, both individuals and communities suffer. Medicaid expansion will reduce the burden on many sectors of Ohio's communities.

Expanding access to mental health and addiction services is imperative to improving our communities, building a healthy workforce, and strengthening Ohio's economy. Over the next few months, the Mental Health Advocacy Coalition will demonstrate that your decision to expand Medicaid is the right decision for all Ohioans. Medicaid pays for many critical treatment services, but most prevention, wellness and supportive services, which are key to a full recovery, are not covered. Expanding Medicaid is a step in the right direction, but there is much more work that needs to be done.

Thank you again for making the right decision for Ohioans,



Joan M. Englund  
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Ohio General Assembly  
Director Tracy Plouck, Ohio Department of Mental Health

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