

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

January 25, 2013

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0601

Dear Governor Kasich:

I write on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio.

Because of our concern for the poor and vulnerable, the Catholic Conference of Ohio joins with Ohio's Catholic hospitals to support Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Through the Affordable Care Act, this expansion will increase access to health care and health care coverage to an estimated 600,000 uninsured eligible Ohioans who are below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

With the understanding that the Federal government will assume 100 percent of the cost of covering newly eligible individuals for the first three years and will cover 90 percent of the costs thereafter, we urge you to include this expansion of Medicaid in your biennial budget. Additionally, we encourage to State to safeguard the existing comprehensive benefits package for current Medicaid beneficiaries and maintain Medicaid provider reimbursements.

Thank you for this consideration.

Respectfully,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati