



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Rep. Sears Introduces Medicaid Reform Legislation**

COLUMBUS— Today, State Representative Barbara Sears (R- Monclova Township) introduced legislation that requires the Director of Medical Assistance to implement Medicaid reforms which will identify ways to lower costs, reduce uncompensated care, and extend coverage to Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

The legislation would extend coverage to Ohioans under 138% of the federal poverty level and will provide critical health care services to Ohio's poorest citizens. New enrollees in the Medicaid program will be fully-funded by the federal government for the first three years. The bill provides protections for Ohio should the federal assistance percentage decrease below the specified amount after the third year.

Additional provisions of this legislation include encouraging personal responsibility through cost sharing, promoting employment-related services, and ensuring those who abuse narcotics receive proper treatment.

"Ohio's Medicaid system has made substantial improvements over the past few years and this legislation furthers that effort," Rep. Sears said. "By providing a ladder up and out of poverty through quality care, we are allowing for citizens to achieve greater self sufficiency and creating a healthier Ohio."

The bill also includes requiring the Medicaid director to present a report to the General Assembly on the progress being made and specifies that the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Technology and Reform consider and review the reforms implemented by this legislation.