



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement from Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on Medicaid Expansion Assessment**

Columbus, OH, 8/27/2018

As social workers and representatives of the National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter, we are called to advocate for policies that improve access to health care for marginalized or disadvantaged populations. The recent 2018 Ohio Medicaid Expansion Assessment makes clear that expanding Medicaid has had a significant positive impact on the health, and economic stability of our state's low-income residents. We are grateful for Governor Kasich and his administration's support for this policy and hope that all policy makers will consider the overwhelming evidence of the effectiveness of Medicaid expansion presented in this report.

Social workers play an integral role throughout the health care delivery system, and our profession represents one of the largest providers of behavioral health services in Ohio. Our membership has observed directly the benefits of extending access to health care to many of the 700,000 Ohioans who have gained coverage. Medicaid expansion has allowed these individuals to pursue work, engage in needed treatment and improve their health outcomes, more fully participate in their families and communities, and regain the dignity they deserve. When our community members are healthy and productive, we all benefit.

We will continue to advocate for policies that preserve and strengthen the Medicaid program. We urge Ohio policy makers to support the continuation of the expansion and avoid harmful policies that may diminish these gains and create additional barriers to accessing health care.

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*The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, representing 600,000 social workers nationwide and nearly 30,000 in Ohio. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards for social workers, and to advance sound social policies.*