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For Immediate Release

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) supports the continuation of Medicaid expansion as a vehicle for low-wage workers to access affordable health care coverage. If people are healthy, they are able to work and to work more hours.

OPRA is a statewide association of more than 160 organizations that provide services to more than 15,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities. OADSP is a state chapter of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals. Their mission is to provide high quality training to elevate the professionalism of the direct support workforce.

At the Medicaid expansion briefing today, Roxanne Funk and Dawn Mrozik, DSP's with RHAM in Marion, provided their personal stories of how access Medicaid has provided them with the ability to “do the job I love”. Governor Kasich lauded Roxanne and Dawn, for their commitment to serving people with disabilities and for working hard at their jobs. Roxanne and Dawn were joined by Adam Guinther, Executive Director of RHAM, who said “we know it works (Medicaid expansion) for about 15 of our staff”.

“We have a workforce crisis in our field. We are simply unable to recruit and retain enough direct support professionals (DSP's) to meet the demand. Access to affordable health care has allowed many of our direct support professionals to start and maintain their careers. It is crucial assistance for people working hard every day, to support their families, participate in their communities and to have some degree of financial predictability”, says Mark Davis, President of OPRA.

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