

Ohio Association of

**COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
AUTHORITIES**



February 15, 2013

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The Honorable John Patterson
The Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Patterson,

On behalf of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Boards that we represent, we are sending to you a unanimously passed resolution calling on you to pass the Expansion of Medicaid to 138% of poverty as allowable by the Affordable Care act.

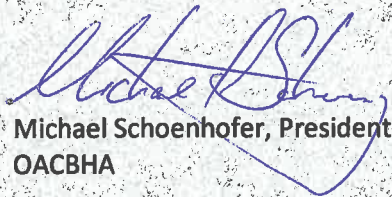
As you know over the past decade the alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services safety net has been devastated by budget cuts. While Governor Kasich began the process of rebuilding the behavioral health safety net in the last biennium, there are still thousands of individuals in need of services who cannot access them due to a lack of insurance.

Now, Governor Kasich has taken yet another courageous and bold step in proposing the expansion of Medicaid to 138% of poverty. We completely support this expansion, as this will provide for the single largest investment in the alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health systems in a great many years.

Please know that we stand ready to help you in any way possible to move the expansion of Medicaid forward to ensure that thousands of additional Ohioans receive the alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services they so desperately need.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Michael Schoenhofer, President
OACBHA


Cheri L. Walter, CEO
OACBHA

Treatment Works ... People Recover