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June 29, 2012

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich,

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services* included a ruling on the expansion of Medicaid to individuals below 133% of the federal poverty level. As a result, states will now have the option to not expand Medicaid without the consequence of losing all Medicaid funding. I urge you to protect and expand Medicaid access in the state of Ohio by including the Medicaid expansion provision in Ohio's plan to implement the Affordable Care Act.

If Medicaid is not expanded, there will be a group of individuals who are left without a coverage option. These Ohioans are ineligible for the current Medicaid program and will also be ineligible to receive subsidies to purchase insurance through the state exchange. Not only is this a matter of providing needed health services for the people of Ohio, it is also a matter of economic sustainability.

Uncompensated care is a drain on our hospitals, health providers, and health care system as a whole. By expanding Medicaid, we will greatly reduce the costly problem of uninsured patients depending on emergency rooms instead of a primary care physician. Moreover, the cost to the state will be minimal—for the first three years, the federal government will cover 100% of the cost of the expansion.

Expanding Medicaid according to the provisions in the Affordable Care Act is the right thing to do for Ohio. I encourage you to choose this option, and look forward to working with you as we build a healthier future for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress