

I would like to thank the distinguished members of this committee for allowing me to speak. My name is Robert Lechy. I am a family practice physician. For 29 years I was in private practice in a suburb of Detroit. For the last 9 years, I have served as the Medical Director of the Macomb Oakland Regional Center. We take care of approximately 5000 developmentally disabled children and adults in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. MORC has been in this field for over 40 years.

I have observed the clients that we serve. They are for the most part covered by both Medicare and Medicaid, and, I believe, their medical needs are largely being met.

However, the direct caregivers employed by the providers that we supervise are most often paid near minimum wage.

Their medical needs are largely unmet. I have seen repeated cases of chronic illness either untreated or minimally treated, either in ERs or clinics.

Regular medical care delivered in an office setting will save money. Problems are treated at an earlier stage, before they become a crisis.

I support the expansion of Medicaid coverage. I feel that regular routine medical care will overall lower the cost of

addressing medical needs, raise the quality of life and provide
for a healthier Michigan.

Thank you for your attention.