



Budget Issues Review: Proposals Impacting Women

The Basics

Governor Kasich's 2-year budget contains a number of policies that could impact Ohio women.

The good: the budget contains additional funding for child care, preschool and maternal health and funds training for public colleges and universities to deal with sexual assaults.

The bad: the budget also asks low-income women to pay more for Medicaid coverage, forces many women who become pregnant or are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer to shop for insurance in the private market, and threatens the employment of thousands of women employed as independent home health care providers. And the proposed tax changes benefit the wealthy while raising taxes on the lowest-income Ohioans, the majority of whom are women.

By the Numbers

3,000-5,000	Additional kids to be served by publicly subsidized child care.
6,125	Additional kids to be enrolled in high quality preschool.
\$2 million	New funding to help campuses prevent and respond to sexual assaults.
\$13.4 million	Additional funding for prenatal and postnatal care in high-risk communities.
\$20	New monthly premium for low-income women wishing to remain on Medicaid.
\$16,105	Income above which women who become pregnant or are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer will no longer be eligible for Medicaid coverage.
13,000	Independent home health care workers at risk in shift to agency-based care.
\$116	Average tax increase for Ohioans in the bottom 20%, most of whom are women.
\$12,000	Average tax cut for the top 1%.

Significant Policy Changes

Asks Women To Pay More For Healthcare. Women who become pregnant or are diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer will no longer be eligible for Medicaid coverage if they make between 138 and 200 percent of poverty (or \$16,105 to \$23,340 annually). The budget asks these women instead to shop for and purchase private insurance coverage. The budget additionally asks many of the approximately 230,000 women who are now enrolled in Medicaid thanks to expansion to pay a new \$20 monthly premium to retain coverage.

Improves Maternal Health. Earmarks \$13.4 million from Medicaid and sets rules to ensure delivery of preventive, prenatal and postnatal services to women in areas at high risk for infant mortality.

Threatens Independent Home Health Care Aides. Shifts future Medicaid funding to agency-based providers of in-home healthcare services, threatening the livelihoods of tens of thousands of independent health providers, over 90 percent of whom are women. Independent providers earn between \$13 and \$16 per hour, compared to \$8 to \$9 per hour in agency settings.



Provides Extra Help With Childcare. Extends gradually reducing subsidies for child care for families earning up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$39,325 per year for a single mom with one child), instead of ending it abruptly when incomes exceed 200 percent of poverty (\$31,460 for the same family of 2). The budget also eliminates child care co-pays for families making less than 100 percent of poverty (\$15,730 for a family of 2).

Expands Preschool. Invests \$40 million in early childhood education to offer more preschool.

Targets Campus Sexual Assaults. Dedicates \$2 million to train officials at Ohio's public colleges and universities on best practices for the prevention of and response to campus sexual assaults.

Tax Plan Disproportionately Harms Women. 1 in 4 Ohio women earns less than \$25,000 per year, compared to just 15% of men. Under Ohio's current tax system, low-income Ohioans spend twice as much as a share of their income on taxes than the top 1%. The Kasich budget plan would further shift away from income taxes in part by increasing the state's more regressive sales tax. Policy Matters Ohio estimates that the bottom one-fifth of Ohioans's would actually pay \$116 more under the plan, while the wealthiest 1% would get a \$12,000 tax cut.



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