The Context of Coverage: Ohio's Medicaid Expansion

a discussion with

Loren C. Anthes

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October 19, 2018 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Dampeer Room, 2nd Floor of Kelvin Smith Library

When Governor Kasich engineered expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, against the wishes of Republicans in the state legislature, he was excoriated by other Republicans. That raises questions about the expansion's fate with a new governor. On July 11 Republican candidate Mike DeWine switched positions and announced he now supports the expansion but would "reform the program." But that raises other questions – such as what is at stake if his position is not sincere, and what "reform" could be needed.

What is at stake in the expansion depends on how it has performed. On August 21 the Ohio Department of Medicaid issued a comprehensive Assessment of the expansion, with some striking findings. They included that 17.5% of Ohioans aged 19-64 have participated in the program at some time since it was implemented; that Ohio's uninsured rate was cut in half, driven primarily by the expansion; that the program has improved not only enrollees' health but their wellbeing in other ways; and that "Medicaid enrollment facilitates/enables employment."

The report does not directly address but has implications for other questions – such as whether the Medicaid expansion may actually save the state money on other programs. Join us as Loren Anthes discusses the report, the reasons the state expanded coverage, and the political context based on the Center for Community Solutions' own work on the program.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences. 

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