**Letter to the Editor

Wayne HealthCare Remains Strong Amid Medicaid Cuts**

Contrary to recent news articles and studies released in the runup to the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill, Wayne HealthCare **is not** in jeopardy of closing. During the past 103 years the hospital has navigated countless challenges to remain steadfast as your local community hospital and we will continue to successfully navigate the current funding challenges that exist for rural healthcare organizations. Wayne HealthCare remains a fiscally strong organization and is dedicated to continue to provide services needed in our County.

The studies that were referenced attempted to show the potential effects of large cuts to Medicaid funding by categorizing rural hospitals as “at risk” for reducing services, converting to different types of healthcare facility, or closing. It should be noted that while the study references three potential results, only the most drastic option of closing, is the one that gets used in the headlines. The reality is that many rural healthcare organizations may be faced with reducing services or converting to a different type of healthcare organization, or the worst-case scenario of closing, once cuts begin to take place in 2028.

As an example, in 2024, Wayne HealthCare went through a conversion of our own when we transitioned to Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status. This transition was a key move to strengthen our financial foundation and allows us to deliver essential services with greater support and flexibility. This designation enhances our reimbursement structure and enables us to meet the needs of our community in today’s evolving healthcare environment.

Additionally, a number of federal legislators heard the concerns of rural healthcare and inserted a provision to include $50 billion for the states which is designated for rural healthcare to offset the overall cuts to Medicaid. We want to thank Senator Jon Husted for his support of Ohio hospitals during the legislative process.

Wayne HealthCare remains focused on what matters most; delivering quality care close to home, supporting our employees and protecting access for patients and families who rely on us. We will continue to do so for a long time to come.

Jeff Subler

President / CEO

Wayne HealthCare