



## An Open Letter to Governor John Kasich and Members of the Ohio General Assembly

At a time when all of us recognize, in unprecedented solidarity, that we must act to improve access to mental health and addiction services, we salute Governor John Kasich for taking action. Our Governor saw that children, youth and families facing mental illness are in crisis, and he made a commitment of \$5 million to help meet their needs. We are grateful for Governor Kasich's leadership.

The Governor's action should galvanize all Ohioans to join the call to make sure that people who need behavioral health care can receive it. Our state can meet this challenge. In the days ahead, our Governor and our state legislators can seize another opportunity to improve access to mental health and addiction services. **We call on Ohio's elected leaders to expand Medicaid income eligibility to further improve access to care.** It is imperative to keep Ohioans healthy to support job growth, school success and overall economic development in Ohio.

We believe in the power and resiliency of the human mind, body and spirit. We know that treatment works, and with the right supports, people recover. Thank you to Governor Kasich and the Members of the Ohio General Assembly for your continued commitment to keep Ohioans healthy. With access to prevention, treatment and recovery supports, the lives of so many Ohioans can be more productive and full, and our state will thrive.

On this we stand together.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio  
Buckeye Art Therapy Association, Inc.  
Drug Free Action Alliance  
Mental Health Advocacy Coalition  
Mental Health America of Ohio  
Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence  
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio  
National Association of Social Workers – Ohio Chapter  
National Psychiatric Nurses Association – Ohio Chapter  
Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers  
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies

Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities  
Ohio Citizen Advocates  
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers  
Ohio Counseling Association  
Ohio Empowerment Coalition  
Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health  
Ohio Nurses Association  
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association  
Ohio Psychological Association  
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation  
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio