

## Ohio Medicaid Fraud – The Exploding Story! - Chris Long



We told you back in February that this story of the fraud problem was a ticking time bomb, well the bomb has gone off. In late December/early January, Columbus officials scrambled to get out in front of the childcare fraud in Ohio. Nick Shirley's reports out of Minnesota gave detailed information on the Somalian fraud of greater Minneapolis. Eyes quickly turned to Ohio, with the second largest Somalian population in America. John Solomon of Just the News reported on the federal records that \$136 million in paper cash trafficked through John Glenn International Airport in the year 2023 alone from the Somalian community of Columbus to the Somalian community of Minneapolis. It was packaged with millions more from the Somalian community in greater Minneapolis, a total of \$700 million, and sent to Mogadishu, Somalia in North Africa and to the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. With these reports, state legislators began scrambling to obtain more information from the DeWine Administration from the Department of Children and Youth and the Department of Medicaid. Auditor of State Keith Faber had already been researching the numbers on home health care, finding that large anomalies appeared in Franklin County in the Somalian Community of those making application for home health care services, so much so that there were more applications in Franklin County in two zip codes around Morse Road than in all the other 88 counties combined. Independent journalists in January and February were on the ground in Ohio, knocking on doors and conducting research on childcare, health care, and transportation entities that had received millions of taxpayer dollars from state and federal government to provide services. These investigative reporters found that there were empty offices, wrong addresses, and no services being provided. Federal authorities began investigating what was happening in Ohio in the Somalian community.

Then, Luke Rosiak's Daily Wire report on the Ohio fraud broke the story wide open. Vice President JD Vance, who was tasked by President Trump to commission a task force on fraud, made the announcement that he is focusing on his home state of Ohio. It is reported that the Vice President will be in Ohio the first week of June to make a major announcement. Meanwhile, the DeWine Administration that has disparaged any real investigation into the fraud over the past few years, is now scrambling to accommodate the federal authorities that are now in his state investigating. DeWine, who vetoed meaningful accountability measures that the state legislature

put forward, is now interested in cooperating with Vice President Vance, the Trump Administration, and the Justice Department on measures that would curb fraud in the Medicaid programs of Ohio. But many see this as too little too late, as undoubtedly, the DeWine Administration officials of Medicaid and the Department of Children and Youth will receive subpoenas to appear before Congress and testify under oath as to what they knew and when they knew it. Speaker of the Ohio House Matt Huffman is furious with the DeWine Administration and has stated in a Columbus Dispatch article that Governor's Department of Medicaid put up obstacles and hurdles to legislative measures that would have solved many of the problems with the home health care programs. Speaker Huffman's comments came after the Daily Wire report that accuses Ohio of allowing widespread fraud, particularly in the Franklin County Somali community. The investigative articles, according to the Dispatch, have prompted state and federal investigations into the allegations.

**OCA President Chris Long made the following statement,**

“The Medicaid healthcare, childcare, transportation fraud that has pilfered billions of dollars from Ohio taxpayers is not a victimless crime. Ohioans who work hard, raise their families, pay their taxes, and play by all the rules, watch as half their wages are taken away in taxes on the city, state, and federal level. Young Ohioans are struggling to get by, working hard every day, and they are watching the American dream slip away for them. Governor DeWine has shown more interest and compassion for the immigrant communities that were thrown into Ohio by the Obama and Biden Administration than he has for his own fellow Ohio citizens. Young Americans are losing faith in America. That is unacceptable.”

Long continued, “Government accountability is needed desperately. And that needs to start right here in Ohio where the fraud has taken American taxpayers by billions of dollars. The FBI raids that we saw just a few weeks ago in Minneapolis at the “Learing Center” and other fraudulent state licensed entities need to happen here in Columbus, Ohio, where the fraud has been rampant and unpoliced. Federal authorities also need to investigate county officials who have looked the other way and who may have actually been involved in the fraud, as there has not been one Medicaid fraud prosecution in Franklin County. We will be very interested to see and hear what Vice President Vance has to say about the Ohio fraud.” - **Chris Long**