Health Policy Institute of Ohio

OHIO HEALTH POLICY SUMMIT 2026

August 26 • Lewis Center, Ohio

Arnold Ventures

Catalyzing Policy Progress Through Data and Evidence

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Arnold Ventures' Health Care Work

Arnold Ventures is a philanthropy dedicated to addressing some of the most pressing problems in the United States.

Health Care Objective > Reduce health care spending for patients, employers, and taxpayers while maintaining access to needed, high-quality care and supporting health care delivery system reform.

Approaches > Research, policy development, technical assistance and education, visibility and communications, advocacy, market disruption, strategic litigation. We work at both the federal and state levels.

Drug Prices	Commercial Sector Prices	Medicare Sustainability	Provider Payment Incentives	Medicaid & State Policy Engagement	FDA Accountability

Affordability Challenges for Ohio's Families, Employers, and State Budget

Families

- Even people with insurance **pay more** and **worry about whether they can afford care** when needed.
- In 2024, **family premiums in Ohio totaled over $22,000**, increasing more than 30% in 10 years (HPIO).
- Nationally, family premiums grew **more than double inflation** and **nearly double wage growth** in 2025 (KFF).

Employers

- Employers **pay about 75% of health insurance premiums** for workers (KFF).
- Rising health care costs **slow wage growth** and **limit employers' ability to increase pay, hire additional staff, expand business operations,** while **forcing employers to make tradeoffs** that often result in higher out-of-pocket costs for workers (Sood et al).
- 2026 is projected to have the **largest increase in health benefit costs** in more than a decade; more than half of large employers expect to shift even more health care costs to employees in coming years (Mercer).

Taxpayers

- States are among the **largest purchasers of health care**, covering more than 15 million state employees and their families (US Census).
- **Premiums for state employees increased 35%** between 2013 and 2022 (Murray et al).
- In 2026, **states continue to contend with Medicaid cost inflation and face added pressure from federal changes** to how Medicaid is financed, increasing strain on their budgets (Medicaid is often states' 2nd largest expenditure) (NASBO).
- As health care costs rise, **states face harder choices about investing in other community priorities,** like schools, roads, and other public services.

Ohio Survey Respondents Struggle to Afford Health Care; Express Bipartisan Support for Policy Solutions

68%

experienced a health care affordability burden

75%

are worried about affording the cost of health care in the future

66%

went without care due to cost in the past year

36%

reported a significant financial burden related to medical costs

29%

rationed their medication in the past year due to cost

HEALTHCARE VALUE HUB

Read more at: Healthcarevaluehub.org/consumer-healthcare-experience-state-survey/Ohio/ I August 2026

Options for Reducing Health Care Costs and Improving Affordability

- Improve transparency and market oversight
- Contain health care costs in the commercial market
- Promote effective, affordable health care delivery
- Balance constrained state budgets

Altarum Institute Polling: Bipartisan Support for Policy Solutions

Support for policy solutions extended across the aisle, reflecting bipartisan agreement on the need for legislation that addresses the burden of health care costs. Ohio respondents endorsed a variety of potential strategies, including:

	Total Percent	Republican	Democrat	Independent
The government should prohibit extra fees that aren't connected to the cost of your care, like hospitals charging facility fees	92%	93%	92%	90%
The government should limit the price of expensive prescription drugs	91%	91%	94%	89%
The government should prevent hospitals from charging more for routine health care services that are often provided in a doctors' office	90%	91%	91%	89%
The government should rein in how quickly prescription drug prices can increase in the private health insurance market	89%	89%	93%	86%
The government increase investment in primary care services	89%	90%	90%	88%

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Using Data and Evidence to Catalyze Policy Action

Indiana Prices → From Price Transparency to Price Caps

Anticompetitive Contracting Practices → From Litigation to State and Federal Policy

Medicaid → From Financing Research to State Directed Payment Reforms

Resources for State Policymakers, Stakeholders, and Researchers

NASHP | NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY McCourt School *of Public Policy* CENTER ON HEALTH INSURANCE REFORMS

URBAN INSTITUTE

Center for Health Care Strategies
Better care where it's needed most

O'NEILL INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL & GLOBAL HEALTH LAW
GEORGETOWN LAW

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

FAMILIESUSA
THE VOICE FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

UNITED STATES of CARE

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
Driving Health, Equity and Value

HEALTHCARE VALUE HUB

BROWN | Center for Advancing Health Policy through Research

Thank You

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We value your opinion

Please fill out our evaluation form to share your thoughts on our plenary sessions and your overall experience at the Summit

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