



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER FOURTEEN

- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa provides the promise of a high quality of life to its residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of this state are our most valuable resource; and
- WHEREAS,** the overall productivity of this state declines whenever barriers preclude residents from gaining full access to quality health-care services; and
- WHEREAS,** existing barriers preclude many Iowans from gaining access to quality health-care services; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa currently enjoys an unparalleled opportunity to become a national leader in the treatment and prevention of health-related illnesses; and
- WHEREAS,** many Iowans possess important insights that can help policy-makers improve the quality of health care across this state; and
- WHEREAS,** all residents of the State of Iowa, as consumers, are entitled to lend their voices to policy discussions, by participating in the development of a comprehensive quality health-care policy for this state; and
- WHEREAS,** I, as governor, believe that it is imperative for state government to partner with health-care consumers in an effort to penetrate the barriers that surround the state's health-care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the constitution of the State of Iowa hereby order and proclaim the establishment of the **HEALTH CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL**. This Council shall operate within the framework and guidelines set forth in Articles I through III, below.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE AND FOCUS

The Council has been established to advise the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on health-related public policy issues. The Council will serve to broaden the pool of participants who engage in the development of health-care policy within this state by linking state policy-makers with health-care consumers.

The Council has been established to serve the following functions:

1. to identify important health-related issues by surveying state residents;
2. to enhance the leadership skills of health-care consumers and advocates;
3. to facilitate communication between consumers and policy-makers by providing a forum for discussing health-related public policy issues;
4. to create a partnership between consumers and state government in an effort to reduce bureaucratic obstacles that may limit an individual's access to quality health-care.

ARTICLE II: STRUCTURE

The Honorable Sally J. Pederson, Lieutenant Governor, shall be named Honorary Chair of the Council. Other Council members shall be appointed by the governor.

The Council shall be composed of citizens representing the state's diverse health-care consumer pool. Representation shall include persons familiar with difficulties encountered by health-care consumers with special service delivery needs.

Representation on this Council shall include, but not be limited to: a parent of an asthmatic child; a patient undergoing cardiac rehabilitation; a mental health clinic patient; a small business owner; a farmer; a factory worker; and a parent with a child enrolled in the state's HAWK-I plan. Health-care providers, professional advocates, and insurers may participate in this initiative by serving as a resource to the Council, however, they may not serve on the Council as voting members.

The Council shall form a Consumer Health Network of Iowans from across the state. The Council shall solicit input from the Network, through various media, when evaluating health-care services provided and/or funded by state government and other providers. The Council shall place a special emphasis on consumer perceptions of the existing health-care system.

The Council shall prepare and submit a preliminary report of its findings to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Director of Human Services, and Director of Public Health by September 1, 2000. The Council shall submit a final report outlining its findings, conclusions, and recommendations by April 1, 2001.

ARTICLE III: FUNDING

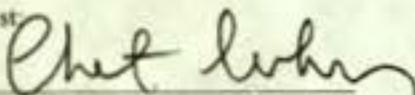
Funding for the Health Consumer Advisory Council shall be provided for by the Iowa Department of Human Services and the Iowa Department of Public Health, through contributions and donations earmarked for the purposes set forth in this Executive Order.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done in Des Moines, Iowa on this the 25th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand.


Thomas C. Vilsack, Governor

Attest:


Chester J. Culver, Secretary of State