

Hello. My name is Julie and I am writing to let you know my feelings on the possible changes of Medicaid to a managed health care.

I have been on social security disability and SSI since being in my 20's. I am now in my 40's and have had numerous health issues including mental health problems. It's hard to find the right doctors today that accept my insurance. It's also very difficult to find ones that you trust and believe in. I believe I have found them and now I fear that they are going to be ripped from me because of Governor Branstad and the managed care companies.

I have trouble trusting people. If and when these managed care companies reveal which doctors will be with them, I worry that the doctors that I see will all be either in a different company or choosing not to participate at all. My disability has to do with mental illness. Will my counselor of so many years be taken from me? Or will I be able to choose him but not have my family physician who knows my ailments so well? I lay worrying at night about such things. I do not want to go back to bouncing in and out of hospitals because my counselor can't be seen. That is not right. It would be a setback that would decrease my quality of life and increase the medical costs that Governor Branstad is trying to reduce.

Iowa is not going to be saving with managed care companies in the long run. Even though patient costs may go down, the other side of the coin is that the administrative costs will outweigh them considerably.

I do not know what plans there are and who is on them. It is now November and fast approaching January 1. Things are going way too fast. Financial mistakes are going to happen. It doesn't seem like the 4 managed care companies are even going to follow the same rules. I'm scared, not so much of change, but that I will not have the supports that I need to continue to grow stronger so that I do not add to the financial burden of the state. It seems that Governor Branstad believes that the majority of us on Medicaid do not care about the budget. This angers me.

I would ask that this craziness stop or at least slow down. I know that there are other ways we can cut costs besides stripping us of our providers. Managed care will cut our choices and add to the pockets of the administration while possibly adding more health issues and costs to the standing problem.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me. I hope that you have some insight into how this issue will be affecting me.

Julie