

I am writing to express my concerns about the current plan for privatization of Medicaid services in Iowa. There may have been no time in history when our services to mentally ill, mentally retarded, and developmentally disabled have been in such short supply with so much demand. There is daily evidence of the need for more services to these populations, not fewer. The middle man proposed in this matter is very expensive when one considers the loss in services to accommodate oversight, and supposed cost saving. The records of the companies selected are not good in terms of cost savings or effective service. Please put the treatment needs of the mentally ill, mentally retarded, and developmentally disabled first in this matter. Their safety and quality of life must be a priority. Also a priority is the safety of all Iowans. The absence of adequate treatment and safety nets for these populations is directly associated with the safety and security of Iowa communities. While not originally dangerous, the person afflicted with mental illness, who doesn't receive adequate care and oversight becomes a mentally ill person with a gun, dangerously driving a car, or putting others in peril. The same person, adequately treated, provided support and oversight may be contributive to society with symptoms managed. At a time when we who treat the mentally ill know more about effective treatment than ever before, please do not deny treatment to those who can benefit. The expense of a bungled system means widespread problems to law enforcement officials, families, schools and communities.

Sent from my iPad