

We have grave concerns for our mentally disabled son and all those who cannot speak on their behalf, about the Iowa's Medicaid privatization proposal.

We were at a recent meeting with our Iowa state Senator, Amanda Ragan. She urged us to contact our Federal government to stop Governor Branstad's application.

Over a hundred of us attended Ms. Ragan's meeting. We are all satisfied with the present Medicaid program and we do not understand why Governor Branstad wants "to fix something that's not broken."

Here is the information that Ms. Ragan shared with us:

By January 1, 2016, the health care of more than a half million Iowans is scheduled to be turned over to four managed care companies-even though the contracts have yet to be signed.

The federal government invests a significant amount in Iowa Medicaid services. It has a responsibility to make sure Medicaid dollars are used to improve the health of Iowans in need rather than lining the pockets of corporate middlemen.

No other state has tried to completely convert its entire Medicaid population to managed care so quickly and with so little forethought as Iowa is trying to do.

Providers are being asked to sign contracts that don't include reimbursement rates. Medicaid recipients and their families have good reason to be worried about the future.

Under the Branstad Administration's proposed contracts, administrative costs will jump from 3 to 12 percent, an increase of several hundred million dollars.

Experience in other states shows those increased administrative costs will be funded by denying services to Iowans and cutting payments to Iowa providers.

The best option for the Federal government is to deny Governor Branstad's application to establish a statewide private managed care system for Medicaid in Iowa.

At a minimum, the federal government should slow this process down and require changes that make sure patient outcomes continue to improve and that access to health care is not decreased.

We beg you to protect Iowa's vulnerable by saying "NO" to Governor Branstad's proposal.

Sincerely,
Tom & Deb Ryan
Mason City, Iowa