

I am very concerned about the Governor's rush to privatize Medicaid especially in light of all that has been revealed in the past few weeks concerning the 4 MCO's who have won the bids. I'm also concerned that he does not have any statistics to prove that doing this will save money in Iowa. There are statistics out there that show that Iowa's cost per recipient was really quite reasonable and effective. I feel that it is very interesting that the Governor's idea to privatize Medicaid came out in the open shortly after he was re-elected, partially in part from the funds from the 4 winning MCO's. First and foremost CMS has to approve this request by Iowa. I would really hope they will take a look at these factors and make Iowa prove how it could possibly save money without endangering the services for the Medicaid recipients. More of the money will be going to administrative costs if for profit companies operate the Medicaid budget. If and when CMS approves this request, it would seem that the MCO's need time to get providers to come into their networks. There are a lot of providers that I've contacted that haven't signed up yet as they wanted to see what was going to happen. It hasn't been that long ago that the MCO's had signed their contracts with DHS; the MCO's couldn't tell providers too many details before that occurred. Everything is being pushed too quickly. There has to be providers in their networks or consumers aren't going to know which MCO is doing to be best for them.

Thanks,  
Karen Intlekofer