

Dear Ms. Funaro,

I wanted to send an email to you to ask you to either stop or slow down the Iowa Medicaid Modernization plan. I am a member of The Arc of East Central Iowa community. The Arc of East Central Iowa offers a variety of programs and services that help enhance the lives of over 800 people with intellectual and related disabilities. The Arc of East Central Iowa is about service, advocacy, inclusion, family, and community. They deliver high quality programs that produce results. More importantly, they improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by disabilities including, but not limited to epilepsy, autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and brain injury. The Arc community is committed to building better lives for people with disabilities and their families.

The lack of comprehensive communication to affected individuals and organizations combined with an accelerated timeline have created serious concerns that the rollout of the Iowa Modernization Plan could negatively affect those served by the Iowa Medicaid System. For over 60 years, The Arc has been an advocacy organization made of members who support and defend the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. That means that hundreds of members and interested friends have spoken up for those who can't speak for themselves – children and adults with intellectual and related disabilities. Over time, that advocacy has brought people out of institutions and kept children and families intact – in the community. The Arc of East Central Iowa is committed to community awareness and understanding of people who have developmental disabilities.....**on their behalf I ask that the Iowa Medicaid Modernization Plan be stopped until or even just slowed down until a comprehensive implementation plan can be achieved.**

Thank you,

Melissa Cullum, RN, MSN, MBA
Board Member of the Arc of East Central Iowa