

I attended a portion of the meeting by the health policy oversight committee on Tuesday, November 3rd. I've been closely watching and reacting to the managed care progression and want to make my views known.

First, Iowa's Medicaid program has been managed very well over the years through the existing methods and last year state workers saved the state \$47 million. Some other states have seen problems with fraud (and the four chosen managed care companies in Iowa have had history of fraudulent activities in other states), though Iowa hasn't had such problems under the current system.

Also, Iowa has among the lowest provider rates in the country. We also have had an overall good experience with the providers working with Iowans on Medicaid. My brother is one of those who has Medicare and Medicaid. He's on the ID waiver as he has Down syndrome. His agency has served him extremely well for over 30 years and his family want them to be able to continue.

The fear of even lower rates for providers that at some point I expect the managed care companies will offer providers most certainly will have an extremely negative effect on the quality of service providers will be able to offer since it will be even more difficult to hire qualified staff. I also anticipate physicians and others providing medical care would find it not worth their time and effort to comply with the additional burden of the managed care regime and decline to accept Medicaid patients.

Thus far, I've seen nothing regarding how or who will be put in charge of oversight and regulation of the four managed care companies to protect the 560,000 Iowans who will be dependent on these companies for their health care and quality of life needs.

My brother can't speak for himself. The speed with which the state is moving to managed care and the way they have initiated this whole process has left me and many others very skeptical of the outcome, including the nebulous proposal that millions of dollars will be saved, managed care companies will make a profit and yet my brother and 560,000 other Iowans won't see any decline in the quantity or quality of their Medicaid services.

These printed words can't even come close to the anger and frustration and betrayal I'm feeling regarding managed care for my brother and all the other Iowans who are going to be impacted by this plan.

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