

My name is Karen Kuhlmann. I'm the guardian and conservator for my mentally handicapped brother, Dean Shonka. After our father passed away, Dean (age 62) moved in with us. He has lived with me, my husband, our 5 children, for the past 5 yrs.

I've been his primary care provider for over 5 yrs. I've taken Dean to all his doctor appts, he can't make decisions for himself and struggles with changes. I'm very concerned that you are jumping into some very drastic decisions are going to have a huge and negative impact on my brother and the care that we can get for him.

Currently he has several physicians that help him with nervous, urology, medical issues. It is my understanding that using these doctors under the MCO, may not be covered under all the plans. If the MCO doesn't have an agreement/contract with all the providers he currently uses, dean will have to change his care providers. Why?? He needs the care and is comfortable with them and they know "his story" and his heal history. Furthermore, the plans haven't even been communicated so users or care providers so that contracts or agreements can be submitted.

I feel that these changes are going to cause major issues for the consumers and the public is going to have a major cost increase to have these plans administrated. Also, I feel that a "for profit" company is going to limit benefits that are needed for individuals that don't have any other options for care, because they are trying to benefit their own bottom line. We've seen that other states that have attempted this practice have increased the cost of care/administration and denied benefits to the consumer. Why would you even consider doing to the citizens of Iowa who need to most.

The best option is for the Federal government to deny Governor Branstad's application to establish a statewide private managed care system for Medicaid in Iowa. Please listen to the people of Iowa. I can assure you if you don't you will be making a terrible decision and I will never vote for Terry again or any one in his party. This is not a position to lowan's in. We have rights and I want my voice heard. Please listen.

Thank you.