

I am writing to urge you to seek a temporary halt (extension) on the Medicaid privatization until our state is ready. I am currently guardian for my adult handicapped sister who receives Medicaid benefits. Upon receiving the packet of information (only last Saturday) regarding this change and finding my sister was assigned to the company that a judge has thrown out. I attended one of the State wide meetings in Muscatine on Monday evening. In this meeting I found that it didn't matter if none of the MCO had a provider list in place, it didn't matter that the judge had ruled to throw this MCO out, members still were expected to have the MCO's chosen and in place by 12-17-2015.

Please tell me how Governor Branstad could possible do this to his fellow lowans? As you are aware this is a process that is going to affect thousands of lives and quite frankly it is obvious the state of Iowa **is not ready**. In the meeting I attended one of the attendees had researched the other states that already have a private plan in place and one state took 10 years to convert. I am not suggesting that we need that long but we certainly need to take a eyes open look and know that we simply need more time and just can't throw together and sloppy half done plan and expect it to work. Everyone always stresses the importance of taking pride in Iowa. I have been a lifetime lowan and must say for the first time in my 57 years I am ashamed of what our Governor and state is planning on doing to Medicaid members. We are talking about the most important part of all these members lives - HEALTH!!!

In closing again I urge you to work on getting this deadline extended and a neat orderly plan in place, before we proceed.

Thank you  
Sincerely,  
Peggy Wirt  
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