

To whom it may concern,

This is very concerning to me, being not only a mother whose child will use these programs, but as a former Thyroid Cancer patient who will need periodic blood tests and medication for the rest of my life. Not to mention possible scans. From what I understand of this new program, for which no one I spoke to at Medicaid or my primary care office knew anything, I have 16 days to pick a company I've never heard of, have no idea if I will have to pay a premium, or which of my specialist doctors are on their plan. I've also come to find out none of these companies is based out of Iowa. None.

The only thing I do know is a company was already chosen for me, so the 16 days is what I have to change to a different company. Let me explain why this is a very difficult decision. First of all, I have more than one doctor. Most of them are specialist. And I have seen them for years. You can stick me with whatever Primary Care doctor you want, it doesn't matter as none of them are helpful in the town I live. But to be told if not one of the companies accepts all of my doctors/specialists then I am to chose which doctor I want to keep and replace the rest? That is unacceptable.

I've had cancer. Thyroid Cancer. And I have no thyroid. I have to see my ENT on a regular basis for lab work and refills on my thyroid medicine, because I HAVE NO THYROID. I will DIE without that medicine. So if I have to give up any of my doctors, it's sure not going to be her. But that leaves the possibility of my having to give up my Neurologist, who I've also been seeing for years, for my Traumatic Brain Injury, seizures, Fibromyalgia, ect. Do you have any idea how hard it is to find a decent doctor? It's already hard enough to get necessary tests approved.

As we speak, for the last 6 weeks, I have been trying to get an MRI so I can see a neurosurgeon for back surgery. They won't even let me make an appointment with a recent MRI and a referral. The referral is not a problem. Getting the MRI they require has turned impossible. And now you are going to hand over my care, to companies I've never heard of and can't get any information on at all, and think they are going to approve an MRI for me? I doubt it.

I'm begging you to stop this. I need to keep ALL of the doctors I have. Not pick and choose. And I know I am not the only one.

Sincerely,

Debra Hunter
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