

Hi Patty,

I'm writing to you because I am opposed to the privatization of Medicaid. This affects my family as my son is on the Health and Disability Waiver, and receives Medicaid. He is also covered by TWO private insurances because his father and I are both employed full time. My opposition is partly due to the EXTREME rush to get this through to start in 2016. I need more information if I am to make informed decisions about this, and I am taking care of many people, and can't do the research necessary to become informed in such a short time. I live in Mason City, and my son's psychiatrist is Iowa City, 3 1/2 hours away, (he has also been seen at Frasier Family Center in Minneapolis, although that was prior to Medicaid). Because of the relationship, it is imperative that we keep his care givers in place, as they have the experience with his diagnosis of Autism and his unique personality. Rushing this through will only set him back, and he already had a late start given there were NO services available where I live until recently. He will be 18 next year, but still has another year of high school left. Please, PLEASE, don't take away the gains we've made in this journey to help him become a contributing member of society, and the possibility of him having an independent life. He is an Iowan, and deserves every opportunity to live his life to fullest regardless of his disability. He is amazing young man, and according to the Center for Disabilities and Development in Iowa City, has a great deal of potential. This will have a definite negative impact on him, and he deserves better, as do ALL of Iowa's children. Why would we want to do this to our future? After all, that's what Iowa's children are, the greatest resource we have.

Thank you for your time, I appreciate it.

*Carla Dempsey*