

Dear Honorable Legislators of the Health Policy Oversight Committee,

Thank you for your service and dedication in looking at the situation with the managed care organizations under the Medicaid and HAWK-I program. As a former elected official I know the pressure and responsibilities you have to provide services with in a limited budget, but this issue is no longer about providing a service or being fiscally responsible, this has become nothing more than political pandering amongst parties and our Governor against his President. You are creating a deadly situation for this state, its low to middle class, small business owners, individuals just like myself.

The new managed care organization as you know have NO agreements with the major hospitals in Polk or surrounding counties, nor do they have any agreements with a large number of providers. Most individuals in this state the rely on Hawk-I are not aware of this situation and starting January 1 will show up at their regular doctor or worse the ER and find they are no longer covered there. Who will be paying for this? Will these individuals be forced to pay out of pocket, default on these payments and further ruin their lives and their credit? How is that helping your Iowa families?

As a small business owner that was proud to say I made it in Iowa starting in the middle of the latest recession I am now at a crossroads. I make enough to survive, but still qualify for a subsidy with the Hawk-I program, I have a very active 4-year-old daughter with a learning disability that requires a counselor as well as a therapist. The out of pockets on these cost would make providing for my family's other needs near impossible. I contacted her pediatrician, counselor and therapist and none have any idea if we will be able to return under the current system. This will devastate my daughter who needs structure and routine. Worse than that the three closest hospital are not even applying for the MCO's plans. This leaves me at a dangerous choice, if my daughter is in an emergency immediate medical situation do I go to the nearest hospital knowing that I will have to pay cash and could risk ruining me financially, or risk the 45-minute drive to one that will take my plan? ALL OF YOU HAVE PUT ME IN A SITUATION THAT DEMANDS I DECIDE THE SAFETY OF MY DAUGHTER AT A COST OF FINACIAL RUIN.

Hawk-I is requiring that I select a plan by December 16<sup>th</sup>, none of my providers have been able to tell me if they will know by then. How am I to select a plan when your political posturing is delaying everything in this process. If need be I will have to add my daughter to my current plan which will add a large financial burden to my family. Three years ago I was able to fully cover my family of three for \$600 a month, last year with my daughter on Hawk-I I was able to cover my wife and I for \$650 this year to add my daughter back on we will pay with every other increase just under \$1000 a month for health insurance. I love Iowa but I have options to move my business and with these increased costs I feel that may be the only way to survive as a business and a family.

The political games need to end, the stakes in this are too high and if nothing is done soon none of you on this committee can ever again claim you stand with lowans, the low or middle class, or small business owners.

Respectfully submitted,

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