

Ms. Funaro,

I am an Iowa Medicaid patient and have been for about 6 years. This is not a negative letter, rather I consider myself a Medicaid success story. I am 35 years old and am disabled by bipolar I disorder. Since receiving the help that Medicaid has provided me, I have been able to actually give back to the society that I love. I am slated to begin in January of 2016 the presidency of The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Johnson County. While gainful employment is still out of my reach, helping the less fortunate gives me a sense of purpose. What I cannot accept is the denial of the treatment that I require because of the very condition that has left me disabled. Selling Medicaid to a few insurance companies can do nothing but make my life harder, at best. There are two main ways that insurers can turn a profit, and that is to deny benefits or to lower reimbursement rates to providers. I feel that neither option could possibly benefit me, but rather lead to insufficient care. Please leave Medicaid intact until a true better alternative exists.

Thank you,

Phil Steffensmeier

2514 Mayfield Rd.

Iowa City, IA 52245