

Good afternoon,

My name is Magdalena Hilton. I am the parent and guardian of a young man with cerebral palsy. We live in Muscatine. I am here today to convey my concern and distress regarding the pending privatization of Medicaid. Here are some of the difficulties we are encountering in the rush to change Iowa's Medicaid to a managed care system run by for profit companies.

First, we do not have lists of providers in our area that have signed contracts with the MCO's. This prevents us from knowing what doctors are in network so we can continue seeing those doctors that are aware of the special medical circumstance of each individual. This also keeps us from knowing how far we have to travel for medical care. From firsthand experience, I must tell you that travelling with a special needs person can be arduous and detrimental due his physical limitations.

Second, we are seeing a lack of resources to help us choose the best MCO for our individual specific situation. We were told that we would receive or have access to MCO provider directories, and comparison charts, which has either not happened or the information is hard to find online and not easily grasped. I have received statements from the MCO's that are different from what I was told by Iowa Medicaid Member Service. The response to many of the questions I have asked to the MCO's Or IMMS was "I Don't Know." I would like to find out who does have the answers.

Thirdly, I am puzzled by the state's budget numbers that we have been given. The alleged savings is questionable. I have yet to see any detailed account of how these savings are going to be realized. The numbers simply don't add up.

We are being forced to make decisions that will have long term consequences. We have not been afforded ample time or information to make a knowledgeable decision for the wellbeing of our loved ones. I would like to thank you for your time, and I hope that our concerns will be addressed. I truly hope that this privatization plan is not merely delayed but completely cancelled. As it is run currently Iowa Medicaid gives outstanding service to disadvantaged

Iowans. It is not broken and we should not sacrifice the wellbeing of half a million Iowans for any reason.