My daughter has both mental health and physical limitations. She has been making great strides recently due to the providers that we now have in place, after years of frustration. For the first time, I was hopeful that she would be able to live an independent, productive life. However, I am extremely concerned that her outcome will change if medicaid privatization occurs, especially within such a short time frame.

I cannot fathom how a significant amount of money can be saved other than through reduction of services and reimbursement when each of the four MCOs have to meet their administration costs and make a profit. My daughter will also lose access to current providers since not all of them will be in the same MCO. Do we choose the MCO with the therapist she has been with for over 10 years or the physician that is finally making a difference? Of course the providers don't even know at this point which, if any, MCOs they will contract with - unbelievable with an implementation date of January 1. Providers are already frustrated that representatives of the MCOs are not available to answer questions and concerns. Do you really believe access to them will improve after contracts are signed? We don't even know at this point if the contracts for the four selected MCOs will stand due to the flawed bidding process.

We are being told that privatization is being implemented to improve health care quality and access for members, achieve greater accountability for outcomes and create a more predictable and sustainable budget through coordination of care, practices that focus on prevention and person-centered care. I would think these practices could be implemented more easily and with less cost within the current system than by restructuring the entire system with these for profit companies.

My daughter, along with thousands of others that will be affected by these changes, struggles every day to make something of her life. Please don't take that away from her when she is finally closing in on a more positive future.