



The Legislature

STATE OF IOWA
Eighty-seventh General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

December 15, 2017

Dear Gov. Reynolds, Speaker Upmeyer, Rep. Hagenow, Sen. Dix and President Whitver:

We do our best work when we work in a bipartisan fashion. When Iowa Republicans and Democrats worked together in the past, we expanded health care coverage to more than 150,000 Iowans with the Health and Wellness Plan.

There have also been times when we have jointly supported mental health services, home and community based services, and locally based access to healthcare. We have protected seniors and people with disabilities.

For the past 20 months, constituents of all ages have been bombarding Governor Reynolds and Republican and Democratic legislators with real problems caused by Medicaid privatization. There is clear evidence that Iowans have died as a result of life-sustaining services being cut off to extremely vulnerable individuals.

Hospitals, nursing homes and other Iowa health care providers – especially in Iowa's small towns and rural areas – are telling us it's not working. They are strapped with delayed or reduced payments, red tape and bureaucratic nightmares that are putting them in financial jeopardy.

Privatization is not saving money for Iowa taxpayers, and it is not resulting in healthier Iowans. Under Medicaid privatization, the state of Iowa keeps giving private, out-of-state companies more and more money, while giving Iowa taxpayers less and less.

Instead of getting better, things are getting worse every day. Now is the time to put aside our political differences and work together to improve Medicaid for all Iowans.

AmeriHealth Caritas abruptly decided to exit Iowa, leaving 215,000 of our families worried and uncertain about their health care. Hundreds of AmeriHealth's employees have been laid off at holiday time as a result of their failure.

The decision to add one or two more MCOs in 2019 will not improve the situation. Instead, it will lead to another round of upheaval and uncertainty.

Not one piece of data shows us that Iowans are getting healthier, even though Iowa taxpayers are paying more.

When Connecticut realized its privatized Medicaid was not working, state leaders made the decision to go back to a publicly managed Medicaid system. Connecticut is now seeing much better results with their new model. They are saving money and improving care.

More than ever before, we all know that privatized Medicaid is not working for Iowa. For the health and safety of so many, will you work with us to put Iowans back in control of Medicaid?

We can and should do better for Iowans. Watching our health care system collapse is not an option.

Signed,

Senators

Chaz Allen
Joe Bolkcom
Nate Boulton
Tod R. Bowman
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Rita Hart
Robert Hogg
Wally E. Horn
Pam Jochum
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Jim Lykam
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Ruth Ann Gaines
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Phil Miller
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Rick Olson
Scott Ourth
Todd Prichard
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