

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

November 5, 2015

The Honorable Terry Branstad
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

I have strong concerns about the State of Iowa's proposed transition to Medicaid managed care. I have heard from many patients, advocates, providers and other Iowans who share these concerns about the future of Medicaid patients.

Over half a million Iowans depend on Medicaid for affordable health care. Medicaid serves particularly vulnerable populations, including low-income families, children, seniors and individuals with disabilities.

I am troubled by the very short period of time between the waiver request and the planned implementation date of January 1, 2016. This timeline is aggressive compared to other states that have transitioned to Medicaid managed care. The entire Medicaid population is to be moved to managed care at once, while other states instead have shifted to managed care more gradually. I am also alarmed at the decision to include the highly successful Hawk-I program in this transition. As a result of Hawk-I, Iowa has long had one of the lowest uninsured rates for children in the nation – something we must not compromise.

We must not allow Iowa's most vulnerable patients to fall through the cracks. I urge you to carefully consider the consequences this move will have on Iowans.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack
Iowa's Second District