

June 27, 2024

By electronic mail

Honorable Ned Lamont  
Governor, State of Connecticut  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Opposition to Managed Care Organizations Returning to Run Medicaid/HUSKY**

Dear Governor Lamont:

We write as supporters of Connecticut's Medicaid program to urge you not to move the program back into the harmful managed care model.

In 1996 the Rowland administration brought in private Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to run our Medicaid program on a capitated basis. They [failed badly](#). Providers fled the program; enrollment had to be suspended regularly because they didn't meet access standards. Connecticut's doctors sued the MCOs for engaging in deceptive and improper practices that harmed patients. Even when enrollees could get an appointment, denials of needed care were routine. An audit commissioned by the Comptroller found the MCOs were overpaid by millions of dollars each year. Actionable data to hold MCOs accountable to their contract standards was impossible to get. They resisted accountability under the Freedom of Information Act, despite receiving hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars each year.

Since removing MCOs from the program in 2012, HUSKY is [a leader](#) among states in cost control, access to care, and quality. Since 2012, we have saved billions of taxpayer dollars. Our care management-centered program has adopted more innovations than any other state. We are in the top quartile for two-thirds of federal Medicaid quality measures.

Just one example is a study published this year that found the rates of early-stage cancer diagnosis and survival among Medicaid members were substantially better in Connecticut, without MCOs, than in New Jersey, a demographically comparable state that still has MCOs. Rates were comparable between the two states until 2012, but since Connecticut removed MCOs from our Medicaid program, our cancer survival rate is up 8% and early detection is up 4%. New Jersey Medicaid's rates did not change.

These impressive accomplishments have resulted from collaborative, transparent policymaking that engages all voices. In our current model, innovations are vetted for feasibility, tweaked so they will work, and can be implemented directly by the state. Reverting to MCOs will remove any incentives for stakeholders to work on improvements. Engagement is not just a check box -- it is the key to success.

While there is always room for improvement, and many of us are actively engaged in that process, MCOs will erase HUSKY's progress to date and make matters far worse, not only for Medicaid enrollees and their providers, but also Connecticut's taxpayers. We strongly urge you not to return MCOs to our Medicaid program and to support further improving our national model program for everyone.

Respectfully,

Organizations:

CT Health Policy Project  
Disability Rights CT  
CCAG  
Black and Brown United in Action  
Keep the Promise Coalition  
CT Legal Rights Project  
Physicians for a National Health Program-CT Chapter  
CT Jobs and Human Rights Task Force  
Medicare for All CT  
The Arc Connecticut  
Independence Northwest  
More Than Walking  
Citizens Coalition for Equal Access  
StrokeOT, Inc.  
Center for Disability Rights  
National Association of Social Workers-CT  
Universal Health Care Foundation of CT  
Social Welfare Action Alliance  
AgingCT  
Ministerial Health Fellowship Advocacy Coalition  
CT Coalition on Aging  
Disabilities Network of Eastern CT  
CT State Independent Living Council  
NAMI Connecticut  
Connecticut Legal Services  
Greater Hartford Legal Aid  
CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance

Individuals:

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