

2017 TOGETHER WE CAN CONFERENCE



QUESTIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

At the 2017 Together We Can Conference on Saturday, May 6, participants had the opportunity to submit questions that would be sent to the following elected officials: the Iowa Congressional delegation, the Governor, Lt. Governor, and members of the Iowa Legislature serving on the Oversight, Education, and Human Services committees. These questions were compiled by conference staff and submitted to the above mentioned officials; any response received will be posted at www.askresource.org/togetherwecan.

Please note: The following questions and comments are shown exactly as they were submitted, without any editing or revision. Questions and comments have been grouped by subject or topic area for easier reading.

Waiver Programs:

- “Why would you take away the community-based supports as part of the Medicaid cuts/changes?”
- “How can these (community based supports) be maintained?”
- “Is the state looking at significant waiver cuts? As a parent of a child on a waiver that provides our only break and chance for our son to interact with others his age, it becomes a concern to us.”
- “Waivers, waivers! The wait list is long. Kids are not getting services. Medicaid may cut services so there will be even less resources to help kids with disabilities successful contributing citizens. So, what is our state plan to deal with this (now) rather than later by federal government resources like SSI?”
- “Why is it taking so long to get children with disabilities on the waivers?”
- “Are we going to look at funding long term support services (LTSS) on home/community based waivers adequately to meet the needs of persons vs per capita?” Concerned about institutional based disparities i.e.: State Resource Centers - \$25,000/month for support; ICF/ID Centers - \$10,000/month for support. HCBS 24/7 Supported Community Living Sites - \$48,000.00. This is a huge inequity as well as promoting the most restrictive environment.

Waiver Eligibility:

- “How is there not significant evidence of disability in a child when they can be diagnosed at 9 months of age?” Parents are forced to go broke buying their children their therapy needs, even on waivers due to restrictions. “Who has the courage to challenge that?”
- “With the new healthcare plans the Trump Administration is doing or trying to replace Obama Care with. What changes to Medicaid do you foresee?”

- “Do you have any comments about the requirement of people (with disabilities) to work or changing the income requirements of Medicaid? As a parent of three kids with disabilities these are huge concerns. I also have a disability. It could mean life or death if we lose our healthcare.”

Education:

- “What will you do to ensure protections under IDEA/ADA are guaranteed state to state and between public/private schools if voucher programs are implemented?”

Other:

- “Why couldn’t they (policymakers) even video conference with us?”
- “Why doesn’t Iowa have a (standard) statewide physical education curriculum?”

Comments:

- **Insurance:** “Many, if not most people with medical conditions were covered by health insurance prior to and at the time of becoming ill. Changing jobs or moving to another location causes an insurance company to change your status to ‘pre-existing condition.’ Every insurance company has participants leave without using all premiums paid. The idea that every applicant must pay each insurer prior to becoming ill is ridiculous.”
- **Medicaid/Waivers:** “Our schools and communities do not have the critical resources to overcome cuts”
- **Social Security Income:** “Can help them (individuals with disabilities) get jobs and the families to help them be independent, if they are supported.”
- **Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services:** “Make Vocational Rehabilitation work harder and not just push paper.”