

Oklahoma State Senate

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George Burns
SENATOR
District 5

Committees:
Agriculture and Wildlife
Transportation
Business Commerce &
Tourism
Appropriations-Sub-Select
Agencies

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Governor Stitt,

I am writing to encourage you to rethink this seeming rush to enter into a Managed Care Contract for many of our Medicaid recipients. There are very few people who believe that fully capitated managed care is the right answer, and I definitely believe it isn't the right answer for Oklahoma.

First, we should give credit where credit is due and say that the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority is one of the best Medicaid Agencies in the nation. Truly, other states come to Oklahoma to learn how we manage our costs and our Medicaid population. The documents from your office even show that this move to out-of-state managed care will not save our state money. We all know the history of managed care companies finding ways to take more money; if that history plays out here, this is going to be a very expensive mistake.

Second, as you know, my district is on the border between Oklahoma and Texas. This means that I have constituents who have experience working across the border with managed care in Texas, and none of those people who have actually had to deal with managed care systems believe that the system is good for the patients or the healthcare system. They aren't sure who it is good for other than the out-of-state insurance companies and their stockholders.

Finally, if you are still determined to do what most everyone believes to be a mistake, would you at least take the time to explain why to the people of Oklahoma? It seems that you must have information that isn't available to the rest of us, because the information we have makes the decision to move to managed care an easy no vote. An easy no vote! If you can show us states where this has been awesome, please do. We know there are states where this has turned out very poorly. At best, there are states where this did little harm and little good. If that is your goal, then I don't know why we would support that.

With all due respect, we all want Oklahoma to have better healthcare outcomes. We also want a system we can afford. Everything we have learned from other states says that managed care will probably do neither of those things well. Please reconsider this decision and delay signing those contracts.

Sincerely,

George Burns

We encourage you to rethink this seeming rush to enter into a Managed Care Contract for many of our Medicaid recipients:



Senator Mark Allen



Senator Michael Bergstrom



Senator Warren Hamilton



Senator Tom Dugger



Senator Rob Standridge



Senator Roland Pederson



Senator David Bullard



Senator Darrell Weaver



Senator Joe Newhouse