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## **Iowans Challenge State's Termination of Critical Health Care Services**

**Des Moines, Iowa, June 13, 2017 –**

A group of Iowans with disabilities today lodged a class action lawsuit in federal court to stop Governor Kim Reynolds and Department of Human Services Director Charles Palmer from arbitrarily ending or reducing Medicaid services. Six Iowans represented by three legal groups argue that the administration has violated federal laws and the US and Iowa constitutions by ending or reducing critical home and community-based Medicaid services. Without these services, these Iowans, and other like them, would be segregated from their communities and confined in hospitals, nursing facilities or intermediate care facilities.

Since former Governor Branstad and Director Palmer handed over Iowa's Medicaid system to private for-profit managed care companies on April 1, 2016, the companies have complained that they have lost millions of dollars. The State has bailed them out at least twice. The companies have also tried to contain their costs by minimally paying for home and community-based waiver services even though the actual needs for these services are much greater.

Cutting costs in the absence of changes in condition and without notice to the recipients violates the laws and the constitutions.

The complaint alleges that the Defendants have violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Medicaid Act. In addition, the Defendants have violated the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Iowa Constitution and the Medicaid Act by failing to give the Plaintiffs and others legally required notice of the terminations and reductions and the opportunity to contest such decisions.

Roxanne Conlin & Associates, the National Health Law Program, and Disability Rights Iowa are representing the six Iowans and the potential class members.

For a copy of the class action, go to <http://disabilityrightsiowa.org/wp-content/uploads/p-complaint-FILED.pdf>