

The Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire strongly urges your support of HB 1816, so that the Choices for Independence (CFI) Program and nursing homes will not move to managed care by large out-of-state insurance companies.

Problems with managed care for nursing homes and the CFI Program:

The CFI program supports NH brain injury survivors to be able to live in their own home and community, who would otherwise have to go to a nursing home. This will all change if the CFI Program is moved to managed care.

Conflict of interest and loss of independent case management under managed care

The brain injury community knows from long hard experience what happens when the insurance company both manages and pays for the care. The priority inevitably becomes what is in the self-interest of the insurance company rather than the needs of survivors and family caregivers. NH currently avoids this conflict by having totally independent and conflict-free case management managing care under the CFI program. We will lose this under a managed care approach.

Managed care for the step 2 population has failed in the state's that have tried it

Despite what you may have heard, only 2 states have moved Medicaid long term support and services to managed care – Kansas and Iowa – and both attempts have been failures. Many of the small community-based providers have gone out of business. In Iowa managed care has “devastated the community based care system” according to the Iowa Brain Injury Alliance.

The PACE Program will not provide an alternative to managed care for individuals living with brain injury

The PACE program for CFI and nursing has been suggested by DHHS as an alternative to managed care that people can choose. However, PACE is problematic for people living with brain injury, because you have to be 55 years of age or older for PACE. Most people living with brain injury served by the CFI program are under the age of 55, will be ineligible for PACE and have no alternative to managed care available to them.

Supporting a NH county-based solution

In 2016, the Legislature passed SB 553 which brought together all the various stakeholders in nursing and long term care to work with DHHS to come up with a plan. Nearly the entire SB 553 working group members now support a NH-based solution for nursing homes and the CFI Program built on the counties, instead of on large, out-of-state, shareholder owned insurance companies.