



Welcome to the **Let Us Work! Campaign**

Thank you for joining the **Let Us Work!** Campaign. You are now part of a community of Iowans working together as allies to achieve a better Iowa for all!

The goal of **Let Us Work!** is to change policy to make it easier for more Iowans with disabilities to work, earn money, and be on a path to self-sufficiency.

It's going to take all of us working together to educate Iowa lawmakers about the challenges faced by Iowans with disabilities who want to work but need Medicaid for health insurance.

The first part of this campaign is the **BLITZ to reach every legislator in the state in November and December—let's do this!**

Here's How to Blitz!

STEP 1 and 2: You've already done these steps by signing up for the Blitz and getting this information. Good work!

STEP 3:

Find your legislators' contact information [here](#). When you get to this web page, type in your address and it will show you your representative in the Iowa House of Representatives and your senator in the Iowa Senate.

Call them or email them and **ask for an in-person meeting or a phone meeting**. Say "I want to talk to you about employment for people with disabilities."

Example:

Dear Representative (name) and Senator (name),

I am your constituent and would like to meet you for a few minutes and talk about employment for people with disabilities.

Are you available next week? I am available at these times (list times and days you are available). Please let me know a convenient place to meet you.

Thank you,
(Your name)
(Your address)
(Your phone number)

Where to meet:

Try a coffee shop, restaurant, library, their office, where you work or live. **Make it convenient for them to say YES, I would like to meet you!**

What to do when you meet:

1. **Introduce yourself and tell them where you live and something about you.**

Example: "Hello my name is _____, I'm from _____ and I work at _____ doing _____."

2. **Tell your story:** Be specific. Talk about your skills, education, dreams, and career aspirations. Help "paint a picture" for your legislators about what success looks like for you and other lowans with disabilities.

Examples:

I work, but I can only make \$____. I am on Medicaid because _____ (my employer doesn't provide insurance/I work part-time/I need personal care not covered by private insurance). I can't lose Medicaid. I won't have any health insurance.

Or

I want to work, but I am afraid of losing the health care I get through Medicaid. If there weren't limits on how much you can earn and save, it would help me and others work and make our own money.

3. **Use some of these talking points to explain the problem (see examples below)**
4. **This is important! Ask them if they will support changing policy.**

“Are you willing to change the law so that people with disabilities who work don’t have to worry about losing their Medicaid because of limits on income and assets?”

Did they say YES or NO? Take notes on what they said.

5. **ALSO – Take pictures with your legislators during your meeting** and post them on social media like Facebook with the hashtag #LetUsWork!

STEP 4: After the meeting, let us know what they said. We will send you a link to report!

DO YOU NEED HELP TO DO THESE STEPS?

If you need help, call or email us at the Iowa DD Council:

Carlyn.crowe@hhs.iowa.gov

515-201-8151

TALKING POINTS: Use these when you talk to your legislators.

- The message Iowans are hearing from the State is that if you are on Medicaid you must work. **If you want Iowans on Medicaid to work, then let us work!** People with disabilities want to work! We can’t make too much money or we will lose our health insurance. Does that make sense to you?
- Who else loses their health insurance because they want to work or work more hours? Why are people with disabilities treated this way?
- **Most Iowans are on Medicaid because they have no other choice.** Even people who have private insurance must use Medicaid to get the services they need because private insurance doesn’t cover it. People who are working need to be on Medicaid if their employer doesn’t offer a private insurance plan, especially if they are low income, and/or not able to work full-time due to disability.

- **Medicaid's income and asset limits** are not an incentive to work. Some people who can work, don't work because of the fear of losing Medicaid and the hassle of reporting income every month. Some people's income changes by the week, month or season.

"The limits on how much I make and how much I can save make it hard for disabled lowans to have enough money to live and BE ABLE TO GO TO WORK."

"Just because we're disabled, we shouldn't have to live in poverty so we can get health insurance. It doesn't make sense! These income and asset limits are poverty level limits."

- **Medicaid for Employed People with Disabilities (MEPD)** is a Medicaid coverage option that was designed to promote employment, but it has a lot of restrictions like age, income, and assets.
- Can we change **Medicaid—make it better**—so that people can pay to stay on Medicaid when their income gets higher, rather than get kicked off?
- **The Work Without Worry bill** changes those limits and restrictions so more lowans with disabilities can work more hours, earn a living and STILL HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE through Medicaid.
- lowans with disabilities are a **workforce that is underestimated and undervalued** in our society. Please give us a chance to work and earn just like all lowans.