

Child Health

Through both state and federal actions, Iowa has expanded its health coverage for children and is one of the leading states in ensuring all children have health coverage. Federal health reform provides additional expectations and opportunities for states to expand primary and preventive child health services, and Iowa has been a recognized leader in promoting comprehensive health services for children. Iowa still faces challenges in providing developmental health and oral health services to children, however, and ensuring that all children have medical homes (consistent, ongoing health care providers) that meet their needs. As responsibility turns to states to implement federal health reform, Iowa will be expected to work to ensure that both public and private health care coverage provides services children need for their healthy development.

As Governor, what will you do to create a child health delivery system – building on or changing Medicaid, hawk-i, and IowaCare – that ensures children receive primary, preventive, and comprehensive health services they need, including oral health?



BRANSTAD: As governor I would promote education to parents and guardians on the importance of taking an active role in obtaining health care for their children. This could

be achieved through various venues and methods, but the goal would be to identify the best way to reach parents, then use best practice strategies to deliver the message.



CULVER: Iowa leads the nation in children's health insurance coverage and the quality of our delivery system. Today, there are 57,000 more Iowa children with health insurance

than there was when I took office. Through state-led healthcare reform initiatives, Iowa is preparing to implement the medical home concept. In addition, we made sure to protect funding for the dental-only carve out, the I-Smile program, by backfilling funds following the across-the-board cut.

Healthcare for children has been and always will be a priority for my Administration. In my second term, I will work to provide health insurance to every Iowa child. In addition, when the state budget permits, I will work to expand the I-Smile program. In contrast, my opponent has promised to cut Medicaid and hawk-i funding, which would deprive children of needed healthcare.