

# **Public Testimony and Comments Regarding the 2017 Gundersen Health Plan Proposed Rate Increase**

For Consideration by Commissioner Nick Gerhart, Insurance Division of Iowa

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## I. Background

Iowa Code §505.19 sets forth procedures for health insurance rate increase requests exceeding the average annual health spending growth rate published by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The procedures include a requirement that the Consumer Advocate solicit public comments on the proposed rate increase, provide the comments received by the public on the internet, and to present the public testimony and comments received to the Commissioner of Insurance for consideration before a decision is made on the proposed rate increase. The current average annual health spending growth rate is 6.4%.

The Consumer Advocate Bureau was notified in May of 2016 that the collective companies for Gundersen Health Plan were seeking proposed average rate increases of over 6.4%. Gundersen Health Plan has requested an average rate increase of 19.8% for its 85 plans. The proposed rate increase would become effective January 1, 2016 if approved. As the amount proposed exceeded the most current average annual health spending growth rate, the Consumer Advocate solicited comments regarding the proposed increase.

## II. Public Comments

The Consumer Advocate has received 0 comments and concerns directly from policyholders or members of the public.

## III. Summary

The comments received and posted by today's date have been included in this testimony report as required by the Iowa Code section 505.19(3). However, comments may continue to be received until the Commissioner makes the final decision on the proposed rate increase. Any additional comments received prior to the Commissioner's decision, but after the presentation of the consumer testimony, will be recorded on the public rate hearing site.

