

Expanding Access to Health Care

Building on an initiative to expand access to affordable health care, legislators outlined a plan this week to help Iowans get primary care closer to home.

Senate File 2092 creates a new Regional Provider Network under the IowaCare Program. This will allow low to middle income adult Iowans to obtain primary care through the regional provider network, which already provides health services to rural communities across Iowa.

The current IowaCare Program is a limited benefit program for individuals who cannot afford health insurance but who do not qualify for Medicaid. Residents of Polk County may only access care at Broadlawns Medical Center. All other Iowans can only obtain care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

The bill intends to fix a longstanding criticism of the IowaCare Program and assist local providers by reducing the amount of uncompensated care. The bill is in the Senate Human Resources Committee for consideration.