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**ACLU of Iowa Objects to Attempt to Withhold Abortion
Coverage From Qualified Women**

Des Moines, IA -- The ACLU of Iowa today is announcing its objection to a petition to the Iowa Department of Human Services for emergency rules filed by 41 anti-choice politicians. The petition demands that women qualified for Medicaid be denied reimbursement for abortions resulting from rape, incest, or a devastating fetal health diagnosis.

The ACLU of Iowa has filed its criticism of the petition, joining Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and other organizations. All have filed comments objecting to the petition's demand that the department forego notice and public participation before rewriting the administrative rules governing abortion coverage under Iowa Medicaid.

"The petitioners ask the department to withhold medical coverage from women who have been raped or whose pregnancy has taken a catastrophic turn," said Ben Stone, ACLU of Iowa Executive Director. "It doesn't get more mean-spirited than that."

"Their petition asks the department for a procedural run-around that violates Iowa law about how administrative agencies can make rules," said Stone. "Iowa law is very clear about when emergency rulemaking is allowed, and when it's inappropriate."

"It is shockingly callous that these politicians would try to compound the trauma of rape or incest by depriving a woman who becomes pregnant the ability to make the

best decision for her circumstances, whether that decision is raising a child, adoption, or abortion,” Stone said.

The ACLU of Iowa is a private, non-partisan organization that fights to advance civil liberties for all. It is the state affiliate of the national American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU prides itself in upholding everyone’s civil liberties, no matter who they are or what they believe. We have worked to assure the rights of all Iowans – from atheists to devout Christians, from labor unions to businesspeople and more – to make sure the constitutional rights of all are preserved.

For more information, please go to www.alclu-ia.org

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