

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs
Lucas State Office Building
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

July 15, 2016

Kenneth P. Kates, Chief Executive Officer
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Dear Mr. Kates,

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs wishes to express our strong concern and interest regarding the delay in providing healthcare services for Gerardo Sanchez.

Mr. Sanchez is in need of a liver transplant. His family has explored numerous options for him to receive necessary life-saving treatment both here in Iowa and in his home country of Mexico. Sadly, his condition has become critical and it appears his only remaining option is to receive treatment at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC).

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs was troubled to learn that Mr. Sanchez's family had been told by UIHC administration and staff that:

1. UIHC will not perform the transplant due to lack of insurance and inability to pay, and later offered that proving the family and/or community could provide on-going financial support and transportation to Iowa City would also be necessary.
2. UIHC considered citizenship status a deciding factor in providing healthcare, asking why the hospital would provide services to a non-citizen who had not received citizenship during his 15 year residency in this country.

As a state, we rely on the knowledge, professionalism, caring and compassion of organizations like yours to make Iowa the healthy and welcoming place we all want to call home. As an organization, UIHC states openly that your "care is available to everyone," and that you are "changing lives by improving health and well-being; and assuring access to care for people in Iowa and throughout the world." Yet, it appears that when it comes to a person in Iowa who is not a U.S. citizen, who is in a life-or-death struggle, who UIHC is uniquely able to help, the world-class services of the hospital are unavailable.

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs strongly urges UIHC to quickly reconsider your response to Mr. Sanchez and his family, and provide him with the services required. We also request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss issues of race, ethnicity and citizenship as they relate to the provision of health care and human rights in Iowa. Surely, working together, we can do better. We look forward to future opportunities for discussion. Please feel free to contact me at (319) 621-7878 or via email at micheller@c1stcreditunion.com.

Sincerely,



Michelle Reuss, Chair
Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs