

THE UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

HEALTH MATTERS

On the Hill...



Utah *Health Matters* E-Newsletter

February 23, 2007

Greetings Health Advocates:

What a week! Whatever you're all doing, we think it's working—at least for some of the big health & human priorities. We've also received positive feedback from members of leadership on the patient and friendly tone of our advocacy efforts!

Not counting today (Friday), there are just 3 days left: but from our experience, anything can happen in 3 days. We *could* find the \$ to address the lingering, unfunded priorities ([Medicaid vision services](#) and the full price tag for [CHIP](#) top this list). Or, we could lose whatever gains we think we've made (notice how we are omitting the details...this is on purpose). For these reasons and more, **we strongly recommend physical presence at the Capitol**. At the very least you'd be guaranteed a good time (things start to get a bit wild around this time! Heck, some are talking of starting a bunny hop!). Anyway, **read on...**

1. [Where We Stand on Health & Human Needs: *Down to the Wire*](#)
2. [Health Bill Tracker for Week 7, the final 3 days](#)
3. [HB437 Must be Soundly Defeated](#)
4. [Federal FRONT: Updates on SCHIP Reauthorization](#)
5. [Resolution SCR 6: Set the Stage for Systemic Health Reform \(There is life beyond the Session\)](#)
6. [Important End-of-Session Announcements](#)

1. **Where we stand on Health & Human Needs: *Down to the Wire***

Like we said, it would be bad luck to say anything about the gains we *think* we've made, so please make a point of attending this afternoon's Executive Appropriations Committee meeting at 4:00 or 5:00 pm, room W135: here we will learn where we stand on most health & human funding requests. Based on feedback from leadership, we are fairly certain of what funding requests are still up in the air:

- [Full Funding to Re-Open CHIP](#): \$4.17 million
CHIP is one of Governor Huntsman's top priorities and is a critical piece of his

commitment to cover the uninsured. So far consensus seems to have landed on only \$2 million—not enough to do the job! For the rest, leadership is well aware of the option to dip into the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. We need to keep the pressure on to cover all 12,000 kids...whatever it takes, however they want to pay for it.

- Medicaid Vision Services Restoration: we are putting most of our remaining political capital into the sole source provider proposal and happily working with beloved ally Candace Daly and Standard Optical to promote this less expensive and, we think, philosophically compelling option for addressing the need for eyeglasses. The sole source provider arrangement would cost \$174,000-205,200, depending on the amount of co-pay. This is more doable than the price tag for the full restoration of \$250,400. At this time, Sen. Allen Christensen’s support is critical. Also, many legislators are unaware that eye exams are covered by Medicaid. Thus, the appropriation will enable individuals to get the glasses they need to work and drive safely. Get our updated fact sheet.
- Community Mental Health Services: \$2.715 million
Funding community mental health services will enable nearly 3,000 non-Medicaid clients, with no other way to access services, to get the care they need to work and contribute to their families and communities. Last year, Salt Lake County alone spent nearly \$3.7 million to house and treat inmates with mental illness. Community-based mental health services are clearly one of the best bargains on the Hill this year.
 - Dental Services Restoration and Provider Rates, We must thank members of the legislature for their commitment to substantially increase provider rates across-the-board, especially for dentists. However, we must also encourage them to fully fund the \$2.8 million ongoing request for dental services so that everyone has the opportunity to see a dentist who is willing to see them.

Take Action

Just come to the Capitol. If you cannot, please call or email members of legislative leadership, both parties.

For talking points, visit http://www.healthpolicyproject.org/LegActionCenter/fact_sheets.htm

Please take a few minute to call, visit, or email members of leadership (It is fine to call them at home). IF YOU CALL DURING THE WORKDAY, CALL THEM AT THE HOUSE & SENATE. LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THEIR BLACKBERRY ASKING THEM TO CALL YOU BACK THAT DAY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE (LEAVE YOUR # & BEST TIME TO REACH YOU).

House: (801) 538-1029 **Toll Free: (800) 908-4261**

Senate: (801) 538-1035 **Toll Free: (800) 613-0677**

Otherwise, call them at home (avoid Sunday & Monday evenings & not after 9:30 pm)...

Executive Appropriations (Leadership), House Members

Rep	Becker	Ralph	D	Salt Lake City	8411 1	801	355-8816	rbecker@bearwest.com
Rep	Bigelow	Ron	R	West Valley City	8412 0	801	968-4188	ronbigelow@utah.gov
Rep	Clark	David	R	Santa Clara	8476 5	435	628-5108	dclark@infowest.com
Speaker	Curtis	Greg J.	R	Sandy	8409 3	801	942-7464	repocurtis@hotmail.com

Rep	Dee	Brad	R	Ogden	8440 5	801	479-5495	bldee@msn.com
Rep	King	Brad	D	Price	8450 1	435	637-7955	brad.king@ceu.edu
Rep	Litvack	David	D	Salt Lake City	8411 1	801	792-7272	davidlitvack@hotmail.com
Rep	Lockhart	Rebecca	R	Provo	8460 6	801	377-7428	sblockhart@msn.com
Rep	Moss	Carol Spackman	D	Holladay	8411 7	801	272-6507	carolspackmoss@mindspring.com
Rep	Snow	Gordon E.	R	Roosevelt	8406 6	435	722-4162	gsnow@utah.gov

Executive Appropriations (Leadership), Senate Members

Sen	Bramble	Curtis	R	Provo	84604	801	226- 3663	cbramble@utahsenate.org
Sen	Davis	Gene	D	Salt Lake City	84106	801	484- 9428	gdavis@utahsenate.org
Sen	Dmitrich	Mike	D	Price	84501	435	637- 0426	mdmitrich@utahsenate.org
Sen	Eastman	Dan	R	Bountiful	84010	801	295- 5133	Deastman@utahsenate.org
Sen	Hillyard	Lyle	R	Logan	84341	435	753- 0043	lhillyard@utahsenate.org
Sen	Jones	Patricia W.	D	Holladay	84117	801	278- 7667	patjones@utah.gov
Sen	Killpack	Sheldon	R	Syracuse	84075	801	773- 5486	skillpack@utahsenate.org
Sen	Knudson	Peter	R	Brigham City	84302	435	723- 2035	pknudson@utahsenate.org
Sen	Mayne	Ed	D	West Valley City	84120	801	968- 7756	emayne@utahsenate.org
Pres.	Valentine	John	R	Orem	84097	801	224- 1693	jvalentine@utahsenate.org

2. [Health Bill Tracker for Week 7](#)

For the latest updates on most health-related bills. Click on [Health Bill Tracker for Week 7](#).

3. **HB 437 Must Be Soundly Defeated...**

HB 437 seeks to prohibit undocumented immigrants' use of government benefits by requiring documentation of citizenship status. This bill needs to go down in flames. Why? There is no evidence that undocumented immigrants are using public benefits in the first place. And, based on other states' experiences with similar statutes, HB437 will cause serious problems for citizens in need of aid and will thus cost the taxpayer much more than it will save. HB437 is an awfully expensive way to send a message to immigrants. Get our [fact sheet](#).

We spent a good part of yesterday meeting one-on-one with representatives. So far here is where (we think) we stand.

These Representatives are solid No's ☺

1. Rep. Sheryl Allen
2. Rep. Ralph Becker
3. Rep. Jackie Biskupski
4. Rep. Bud Bowman
5. Rep. Mel Brown
6. Rep. Gregg Buxton
7. Rep. Stephen Clark
8. Rep. Dave Clark
9. Rep. Tim Cosgrove
10. Rep. Brad Dee
11. Rep. Carl Duckowrth
12. Rep. Jim Dunnigan
13. Rep. Ben Ferry
14. Rep. Janice Fisher
15. Rep. Lorie Fowlke
16. Rep. Neil Hansen
17. Rep. Lynn Hemingway
18. Rep. Neal Hendrickson
19. Rep. Kory Holdaway
20. Rep. Christine Johnson
21. Rep. Brad King
22. Rep. David Litvack
23. Rep. Steven Mascaro
24. Rep. Roz McGee
25. Rep. Ronda Menlove
26. Rep. Carol Spackman-Moss
27. Rep. Phil Riesen
28. Rep. Jen Seelig
29. Rep. Lou Shurtleff
30. Rep. Steve Urquhart
31. Rep. Mark Wheatley
32. Rep. Larry Wiley

(we need a clean 40 'NO' votes, including wiggle room, to kill the bill)

We think the following representatives can be convinced to oppose HB437 (or at least have a worthwhile conversation):

- Rep. Sylvia Andersen
- Rep. Roger Barrus
- Rep. Ron Bigelow
- Rep. Jim Bird
- Speaker Greg Curtis
- Rep. Jack Draxler
- Rep. Julie Fisher
- Rep. Gage Froerer
- Rep. Kevin Garn
- Rep. Kerry Gibson
- Rep. James Gowins
- Rep. Keith grover
- Rep. Wayne Harper
- Rep. Greg Hughes
- Rep. Fred Hunsaker

Rep. Brad Last
Rep. Becky Lockhart
Rep. Kay McIlff
Rep. Karen Morgan
Rep. Mike Morley
Rep. Paul Neuenschwander
Rep. Merlynn Newbold
Rep. Patrick Painter
Rep. Stephen Sandstrom
Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Gordon Snow
Rep. Kenneth Sumsion
Rep. Mark Walker
Rep. Rick Wheeler
Rep. Scott Wyatt

Hey, why stop at 40? *If* this bill comes to the floor for a vote, it will be important to send our own clear message about what sort of public policy we think is appropriate for a civilized society (not to mention our fiscally conservative state).

4. FEDERAL FRONT: Next Steps for SCHIP Reauthorization

Senator Orrin Hatch visited the Utah legislature this week to voice his views to Utah lawmakers. The Senator, a champion and originator of the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), spoke at length about the tragedy of our nation still not providing health insurance to all of its children (Read Senator Hatch and Senator Kennedy's SCHIP Op-Ed in [The Hill here](#)). The Good News: The Senator understands that SCHIP helps millions of children in our country and believes the program can help millions more attain the health insurance they desperately need. The Bad News: Senator Hatch is so far not pushing for sufficient funding to enroll all children who currently qualify for the program. Please tell the Senator to fully fund SCHIP--\$50-\$60 billion in new federal funds over the next five years.

Action Steps for this week

1. Help us find families who have been helped by CHIP (or who have uninsured kids). Call (801) 433-2299 or send an email to lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org to share your story and help with CHIP advocacy at the state and Federal level.
2. It is not too soon to make appointments with Utah's congressional delegation for the recess period, starting with Sen. Hatch. Please note: Sen. Hatch has had surgery (he'll be fine!), but he will need more medical care during the Feb. recess. Please book your appointments for the April recess (1st week) through Reed Ryan: reed_ryan@hatch.senate.gov. Use our [Talking Points for Federal SCHIP Re-authorization](#) if you need them.

5. Resolution SCR 6: Set the Stage for Systemic Health Reform

This bill (Sen. G. Bell) will be heard in the House on Monday. It asks Utah's congressional delegation to co-sponsor and actively pursue passage of "The Health Partnership through Creative Federalism Act" during the current congressional session. To help the growing number of states tackling the problem of the uninsured and rising health care costs, a bipartisan group of senators and representatives have introduced bold legislation aimed at covering the uninsured in financially sustainable ways. The House (HR506, the preferred vehicle) and

Senate (S325) "Health Partnership" bills will provide the states with federal funding and flexibility to expand coverage, control prices, and improve quality of care in ways that are responsive to the unique political climate of each individual state. Get our new [fact sheet](#).

6. Important End-of-Session Announcements

- Items for the Master Study Resolution are due today by 12:00 noon. If there is an issue you would like legislators to study over the interim session (April-November), just ask a legislator to submit the item by today, Friday, 12:00 noon.

The Utah Health Policy Project has made arrangements to study the following issues:

1. Modernizing long term care.
 2. Disease management and 'pay-for-performance' in Medicaid: improving quality, managing costs.
 3. Utah Premium Partnership: strategies for increasing participation.
 4. Mini-grants and other strategies for closing enrollment gaps between population groups
 5. Small business health care coverage: challenges & proven strategies
 6. Over-utilization of health care services in public and private sector: fact or myth?
 7. Preferred Drug List & bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals: lessons from other states.
 8. Non-citizens' utilization of public services in Utah: what do we know?
- Utah Medicaid Policy Partnership will have a special dessert meeting next Wednesday, last day of the Session: 12:45 pm-1:30 pm in room W140, West Building.

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