

UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

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NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL HEALTH REFORMS LIKELY TO BE HELD CONSTITUTIONAL *New analysis clarifies the constitutional validity of Congressional health reforms*

Salt Lake City, UT – A new report prepared by the Utah Health Policy Project walks through the constitutional arguments against national health reform leveled by several Utah policymakers, including Senator Orrin Hatch, State Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, and state representatives Carl Wimmer and Julie Fisher. The report finds that most of the critics' arguments are without merit and that the health reform proposals currently before Congress are on solid Constitutional footing.

According to report author Lincoln Nehring, an attorney with UHP, the powers of Congress are limited by the United States Constitution; however, *all* of the powers and duties which the reform proposals assign to Congress fit squarely within these constitutional powers.

"These critics of reform misconstrue Supreme Court case law and interpret the Constitution in ways that would make our forefathers shake their wigged heads in disbelief," states Nehring. "At worst, I believe these critics are trying to use fear tactics to undermine reform by convincing the public that health reform is un-American and unconstitutional; it also suggests that they are in desperate need of a civics lesson," Nehring says. "Fortunately, the American public is well versed in civics. I believe these constitutional arguments will fall by the wayside as Americans learn more about what the legislation actually does and does not do, and they demand that their political leaders deliver on their promise of better health care system for all Americans."

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UHP is a resource for the public, community leaders, businesses, health care providers and policy makers interested in strengthening the health care system while working to develop visionary and systemic solutions to the crisis of the uninsured and rising health care costs. Its mission is to create quality, affordable, comprehensive health care coverage for all Utah residents. For more information, visit www.healthpolicyproject.org. For additional information, call us at (801) 433-2299. Or contact Judi Hilman, Executive Director: (801) 870-3887.