

Specially Tailored State Healthcare Plan Could Pass in Utah

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(KUTV) Full Medicaid Expansion is politically dead in Utah – but a specially tailored state plan could still pass, according to former Lt. Governor Greg Bell. Bell spoke at a Utah Health Policy conference Thursday morning.

“I don’t think the legislature will expand the Medicaid to 138% of poverty,” said Bell.

Bell was Utah Lt. Governor until a few weeks ago. He said Thursday that the offer from President Obama to Utah of a big expansion of Medicaid seems politically dead in the legislature – and the legislature has veto.

“As a practical matter, the legislature has to finance this,” Bell said.

But Bell says Utah may work out a special deal to get help to Utahns below poverty. Bell also says Utah could make a case to the Federal Government for such a deal.

“Everybody has the option to get insurance. I think if we said that, we could be successful.”