



## Letter: Herbert not failing on Medicaid

First Published Sep 05 2014 04:54 pm • Last Updated Sep 05 2014 04:54 pm

Link: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58378050-82/herbert-health-plan-requirement.html.csp>

The Tribune editorial of August 31 ("[Herbert should give up on work requirement ...](#)") begs for a second opinion. Pennsylvania's recently passed Medicaid expansion plan is encouraging. But the Obama administration's denial of Pennsylvania's desired work requirement, based on its apparent illegality and the fed's desire to make health care accessible to every American, puts our Gov. Gary Herbert in a difficult spot. He is currently advocating for a work effort in his Healthy Utah plan if recipients are not disabled, according to Dr. David Patton's report to the Health Reform Task Force on August 28. The federal government is thus far not approving this last sticking point for the governor's plan.

I've had no discussion with the governor, but my opinion is that he is retaining this requirement to retain some hope of having his plan to provide health care for at least 77,000 Utahns approved (as it must be) by our thus-far intransigent Legislature. So I disagree with the Tribune: Herbert is not "failing to get the job done." He is doing his best to serve his people's interest. Give him a chance, and be ready to call your legislators when the question comes before them, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Tom Metcalf, M.D.  
Murray