

# 620,000 Utahns Spend 10 Percent of Wages on Health Insurance

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Apr 29, 2009 by Elizabeth Ziegler

(KCPW News) A new report from health reform advocacy group Families USA indicates that the cost of health care in Utah is continuing to climb, so that even those with health insurance are struggling to afford it. Meanwhile, Utah lawmakers are calling for the federal government to allow individual states to take their *own* approaches to health care reform. KCPW's Elizabeth Ziegler reports.

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While some states have already launched comprehensive health reform efforts, Speaker David Clark told the senate committee that Utah is taking a very *measured* approach, expected to unfold over 10 to 12 years. The state passed its first health reform bills earlier this year, creating a low-cost basic health plan and an Internet site for consumers to compare insurance products, and streamlining the billing process to reduce administrative costs.