

Advocacy Group Encourages Amendments to Health Reform Bills

Jan 14, 2009 by Elizabeth Ziegler

(KCPW News) Judi Hilman with the Utah Health Policy Project is ready for comprehensive healthcare reform. She says Speaker of the House David Clark is on board, and so is the governor's office. But she says insurance companies are already fighting the three health reform bills to be considered in the upcoming legislative session.

"A lot of us are ready for interconnected, complicated reforms, omnibus bills, and what we're learning is that they're fighting even those little pieces that should be a slam dunk," Hilman says.

UHPP met with state leaders earlier this week and found they are still committed to bold, comprehensive reform. And she learned that Clark is receptive to possibly amending the three proposals. Hilman says that means now is the time for Utahns to read the lengthy bills and make recommendations to their legislators.

"This is your health care system, this is the health care system that you and I need to make it through this recession and raise our families, etc," Hilman says. "And so we need to get our arms around them and make them better, as fast as we can."

While Hilman says the three proposals aren't as comprehensive as what she had hoped would come out of the Health System Reform Task Force, her group will propose several amendments that will help the state prepare for bolder reforms she anticipates from the Obama administration.