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### Hatch: National health care law hurts Utah businesses

March 23rd, 2011 @ 12:12pm  
By Shara Park

SALT LAKE CITY -- Utah Senator Orin Hatch and Attorney General Mark Shurtleff say the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, enacted one year ago today, is hurting Utah businesses.

The two Utahns have been trying to change the law since President Obama signed it. They believe health care should be handled by individual states. They contend that Obama's national health care plan costs too much, spends too much, and creates too many taxes for Utahns.

Hatch said Wednesday that the health care plan has created an additional \$118 billion in spending as a result of unfunded state mandates. He also says it's created higher premiums, fewer jobs, and new taxes, especially for small businesses.

"There are all kinds of other expenses that they didn't count on and didn't think would happen. I have to tell you, they are running our country right now into the ground. What's happening is, they're going to play some Washington bureaucrat between you and your doctors," Hatch said.

The act doesn't fully go into affect until 2014, but Hatch and Shurtleff say by then a lot of damage will have been done to small businesses.

One mandate in the bill requires all companies to issue a 1099 form to any individual or corporation that buys more than \$600 in goods or services from a business. Utah Metal Works owner Mark Lewon says that puts provisions on his company that make it harder to be profitable.

"It puts burdens on us as a company because I would have to hire people to just handle that in December and January every year. It does nothing for our bottom line. It doesn't help us at all," he said.

Shurtleff filed a lawsuit on behalf of Utah in conjunction with 27 states when the measure passed. The suit challenges the constitutionality of the law. That lawsuit won and now is headed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Utah Health Policy Project disputes the claims Hatch and Shurtleff made today about the spending in the bill and how it's impacting Utahns. The project says the new law is helping people get health care coverage who previously may have been denied because of a pre-existing condition.

The project will hold an event tonight at 5 p.m. at Tony Caputos in Salt Lake City to answer questions and clear up concerns about the plan.

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