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Utah's Nobel Prize-winning geneticist supports health care reform

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SALT LAKE CITY -- Nobel Prize-winning University of Utah geneticist [Mario Capecchi](#) says he supports the health care reform package being considered by Congress.

Capecchi says he has joined a [group of "white coats"](#) urging Utah Congressman Jim Matheson to vote in favor of the bill.

Matheson is one of the few Democratic holdouts who have said he might vote against it.

Speaking to the Salt Lake Tribune, Capecchi said the legislation is needed to fix the country's "broken" health care system. "It's not perfect. But it's a first step and a very important step," said Capecchi. "We can't afford to wait."

Capecchi was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2007 for his breakthrough work in gene manipulation that's helping scientists worldwide as they uncover the genetic bases of many diseases.