



Medicaid Enrollees

SPEAK UP

Senate District: 9 (W. Niederhauser)
House District: 51 (G. Hughes)

Baby Your Baby ensures pregnant women get vital, cost effective prenatal care...

Proposed Medicaid Budget Cuts Have Life-Changing Consequences

When Melissa was a sophomore in college, she got pregnant. She didn't have health insurance, a job, or family support to lean on. In addition, she struggled with her own health. Feeling unprepared and lost, Melissa was referred to the Baby Your Baby Program. *"For me and my daughter it made a huge difference. I had quite a few complications early on,"* confides Melissa.

The Baby Your Baby Program provides cost –effective pre-natal care to low-income women. This program is designed to reduce Utah's infant mortality rate by facilitating healthy pregnancy outcomes. For Melissa and her daughter, the program was a true blessing. Within three months of giving birth, Melissa was able to return to school and work, both on a full-time basis.



"With the help of the Baby Your Baby Program, I was able to get my life back on track and have a healthy, beautiful daughter," says Melissa.

A Policy Solution: Prioritize Medicaid in the economic downturn

The Legislature should take great care as they look to shave dollars from Utah Medicaid. Programs like Baby Your Baby save money in the long run by emphasizing prevention and wellness. Early access to prenatal care helps ensure babies are born healthy, without unnecessary, expensive complications. Before making cuts, the Legislature should:

- Maximize cost containment measured within Medicaid, such as strengthening the Preferred Drug List or converting Medicaid managed care contracts to a full risk capitated basis.
- Take concrete steps to maximize federal funding and fiscal relief. To qualify for the \$175 to \$315 million in federal stimulus money, Utah must maintain our current investment in Medicaid. Reductions to programs like Baby your Baby would cause Utah to lose millions of federal dollars that could keep our program whole *and* stimulate the economy.
- Consider new revenue sources, such as the tobacco tax, replacing the sales tax on food, rainy day fund or bonding.

All cuts are not equal. Health and human services should be held harmless in the recession.