



HB133: Put Utah on the Path to Health System Reform

Sponsored By Rep. Clark and Sen. Killpack

Summary

HB133 establishes a framework for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for health system reform. This is a crucial step in the multi-year reform process. The bill outlines:

- Topics to be studied,
- Ideas to be integrated into new insurance products, and
- Entities that will be involved in the process.

Why Not Reform the System Now?

Health system reform calls for a research-driven, deliberative process to ensure the outcome is positive for all stakeholders. Without this process, efforts could result in further cost shifting and perpetuation of current inequities and inefficiencies. Given the severity of the health care crisis, the process will take several years to complete. The most significant elements of true health system reform are interdependent, and should not be attempted piecemeal.

Knowing reforms should be as robust as possible and structured to address cost, quality and access, HB133 directs the state to study and make recommendations for changes in 16 areas of the system.

For health system reforms of the magnitude that are needed, the right framework is essential for success. HB133 is the right first step toward creating a health system that works for Utah.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the critical ingredients of health system reform?

- Optimize Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Utah's Premium Partnership (UPP) program to ensure affordability for low income individuals and families.
- Change the way we share and manage risk as a community.
- Create an essential basic benefit package with a focus on primary and preventive care.
- Invest in the state's primary care infrastructure to ensure timely access to cost-effective and appropriate care.
- Improve quality and promote best practices in the delivery of care.
- Promote choice and portability.
- Secure sustainable financing.

For details, see UHPP's report, *Setting the Table for Health Reform* (www.healthpolicyproject.org)

Are there bills this year that move Utah down the reform path?

Yes, there are a number of bills that are positive steps forward. These include:

- HB326, Speaker Curtis's bill that will allow Utah to keep CHIP open for new enrollees;
- HB364, Rep. Holdaway's bill that will improve utilization of Utah's UPP program;
- HB131 Rep. Seelig's bill that will provide 'mini-grants' to community-based organizations to help families enroll in coverage programs and make effective use of their benefits.
- HB301, Rep. Dunnigan's bill that ensures more of the currently uninsured can re-enter the private market.