

## **Healthy Utah Candlelight Vigil**

**WHAT:** Supporters of Medicaid expansion in over twenty states will gather at their state capitols for candlelight vigils in support of Medicaid expansion. In Utah we will gather to persuade our legislature to pass the Governor's Healthy Utah Plan.

WHERE: Utah State Capitol | South Steps

WHEN: Saturday | October 18th | 7:00pm-8:30pm

This Saturday, October 18th at 7pm, Utahns will gather at the south steps of the Utah State Capitol to show their support for efforts to increase low-income Utahns' access to healthcare coverage. Currently, there are 45,000 low-income Utahns who earn too much money or don't otherwise qualify for Medicaid, but don't earn enough to qualify for subsidized insurance on healthcare.gov.

Utah has been studying the issue for over two years. We have seen Utahns <u>die</u> because they didn't receive the healthcare access they needed. Every year that we don't expand Medicaid, an average of <u>200 Utahns</u> will lose their lives. Utah's Governor has a plan that will increase access to healthcare coverage with Utah-based solutions. We are gathering not only to mourn the loss of lives, but to celebrate the lives that can be saved by implementing the Governor's Healthy Utah Plan.

## Vigil Schedule:

 <u>7-minute</u> version of the film Entitled to Life will be shown

## Media Advisory

The Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing sustainable healthcare solutions for underserved Utahns through better access, education, and public policy.

Learn more at healthpolicyproject.org

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- Opening prayer from a Catholic clergyman
- Dr. David Sundwall will offer <u>his thoughts</u> on why Utah should close the coverage gap
- Hear from Utahns in the Medicaid coverage gap, <u>Stacy Davis-Stanford</u> and <u>Melanie</u> Soules
- Statements from other religious leaders (to be confirmed)
- Closing prayer

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