

Utah lawmakers remain skeptical as committee negotiates Medicaid expansion solution

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ABC4 (KTVX)



SALT LAKE CITY(ABC 4 Utah) – Lawmakers, policy experts and others were talking health care at the Capitol Thursday. Specifically, the challenges brought on by the Affordable Care Act.

"I want to find a **solution**, a sustainable one," said Representative Jim Dunnigan, (R-Taylorsville).

A solution to the coverage gap that left thousands of Utahns with no **option** for insurance.

Dunnigan is on the committee looking for a solution, which for now is **working** behind closed doors.

"Every month or two or three that goes on we are seeing and we are learning from other states," said Dunnigan.

But still Medicaid expansion is complicated with a lot of unanswered questions.

Long term stability is the sticking point, but Dunnigan is optimistic the right solution for Utah is out there.

Advocate, RyLee Curtis with Utah Health Policy Project is too.

"Quite frankly they've all said they believe that we need to close the Medicaid coverage gap, so now **it's** just with what type of coverage and how many people do we cover," said Curtis.

Representative Jacob Anderegg isn't so confident.

"Many of my colleagues are not convinced there is a pathway forward," said Anderegg, (R-Lehi).

Anderegg voted against both proposals



during the legislative session, [Healthy](#) Utah and Utah Cares.

He says he's happy to have the discussion, but at this point his position hasn't changed.

"The two biggest questions are how do we pay for it and how do we know what we are paying for? Is it 20,000 people, is it 80,000 people, is it 160,000 people, is it more," said Anderegg.

He says until that [answer](#) comes he can't write an open ended check.

The committee has a self imposed deadline of the end of July, 2015 to come up with an agreement.



After that it will be up to the legislature to approve it in a special session