

Utah advocates support high court's ACA ruling

OGDEN STANDARD EXAMINER

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Utah small business and healthcare advocates for the most part are excited about the [U.S. Supreme Court's ruling](#) upholding tax subsidies for the Affordable Care Act.

Small Business Development Center Director Brandon Stoddard said he thinks the ruling is good for small business in that it helps them get health insurance especially when they are starting.

"There is a little more incentive for someone to take the risk to start a small business and protecting themselves against catastrophe," Stoddard said.

Fourth Street Clinic CEO Laura Michalski said her program is excited for the ruling.

"Hopefully this will provide the foundation so Utah can move forward with Healthy Utah," Michalski said.

Through the ruling, Michalski said millions of individuals will still be covered with health insurance.

"Everyone really was anxious for this decision to come down today," Michalski said.

[The U.S. Supreme Court justices said in a 6-3 ruling that the subsidies that 8.7 million people currently receive to make insurance affordable do not depend on where they live, under the 2010 health care law.](#)

While she is happy the Supreme Court found in favor of the Affordable Care Act, at this time, it does not affect her patients at the Downtown Salt Lake City clinic in anyway.

Because they are homeless, most of the patients fall in the gaps of health care coverage, which leaves them without insurance.

The ruling gives support, Michalski said, that Obamacare is not going away and the Legislature will look at the Healthy Utah Plan, which will help the clinic's patient-base.

While most celebrated the decision, Ogden Weber Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dave Hardman said the ruling will require state legislators to pay for the act.

Hardman said people are now starting to see the financial impact of the Affordable Care Act.

"Had that been found unconstitutional, that would have forced the Legislature and the president to work together to find a solution," Hardman said. "The way it is, the Legislature has to find a way to make it more financially palatable."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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