

# Health Care Reform Task Force gets update on Medicaid expansion negotiations

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ABC4-KTVX

Link: <http://www.good4utah.com/story/d/story/health-care-reform-task-force-gets-update-on-medic/34036/lZQqOfVjEkaVLJA59neDYQ>

Video: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/5873426>

SALT LAKE CITY (ABC 4 Utah) – Lawmakers who are working behind closed doors on a **solution** to close the Medicaid coverage gap in our state offered a public update.

The self imposed deadline for the Gang of 6 is two weeks away, but they are already admitting it will likely go beyond that.

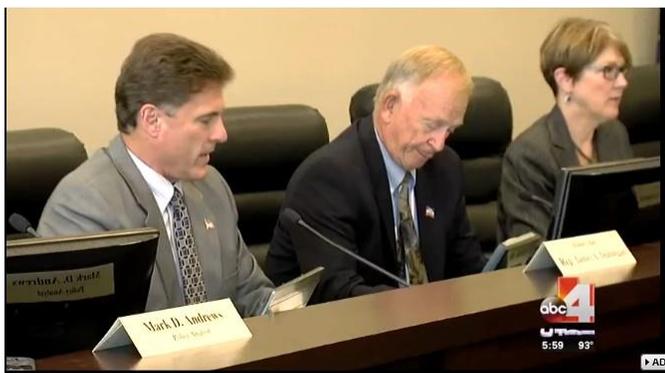
Advocates for Medicaid expansion say that is a mistake.

Negotiations are happening out of the public eye for now, but two members of the Gang of 6, Senator Brian Shiozawa and Representative Jim Dunnigan went before the **Health** Reform Task Force on Thursday.

Senator Shiozawa says one of the main things they are working on is an adequate funding source.

He says those who benefit should **help** shoulder the burden.

"That would be doctors, hospitals, pharmacy, different groups like that we would expect that there would be contributions from those groups. So, that this program would be viable for them, because after all they would benefit from this particular group of insureds," said Shiozawa, ( R ) Salt Lake City.



For now the group made up of tens of thousands of Utahns has no option for health insurance.

Advocates for Medicaid expansion say every day that goes by puts them at **risk** and in some cases it's too late.

"We're having more and more individuals that we hear about not only having **health care** dilemma's,

but actually passing away due to those dilemma's. This is a very, very here and now issue," said Utah Health Policy Project Executive Director, Matt Slonaker.

He says Utahns have made it clear where they stand.

"We want a solution and we want it now, we want it quickly," said Slonaker.

As a [medical](#) doctor who sees the consequences from the front lines himself, Senator Shiozawa says he understands the urgency.

He says the extra time will result in a plan superior to the governor's Healthy Utah Plan and the house backed Utah Cares Plan which both failed during the session.

"We have to do a responsible job. We want to do this as best we can before we put it on paper," said Shiozawa.

Even if they don't have an agreement by the end of the month members of the Gang of 6 remain confident they can get this wrapped up before the next general session.

The Gang of 6 has been communicating with other states to [learn](#) from their experiences.

They say right now all options are still on the table.