Utah politicians working on deal to provide health care for Utah's poor

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By Rod Decker and Larry D. Curtis Thursday July 30th 2015


KUTV) A new Utah plan to get health insurance for the poor may come soon according to Utah leaders. It now looks likely to include a new tax for hospitals, doctors and other health-care providers.

The political leaders say they are finally close to a deal to get health insurance for the poor under President Obama's Affordable Care Act. The health care industry, who will benefit from government-sponsored insurance, will help get the deal done.

Utah hospitals give $320 million a year in health care they don't get paid for. Government health insurance would pay more than $100 million for that care. Utah would tax or assess hospitals $25 million a year of that savings. Doctors and the pharmaceutical industry may also be taxed.

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell is scheduled to come to Utah in August. She must approve a Utah plan. Utah politicians hope to meet with her.

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