

Democrats draw attention to Medicaid expansion with personal stories

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Salt Lake City, Utah- (ABC 4 Utah) – This week the legislature is turning its attention to the prison, but Utah democrats say the focus should be on a much bigger crises.

They say a **solution** to the Medicaid coverage gap is long overdue.

That's why they rallied at the Capitol to put a face to the struggles.

More than 50,000 people in our state have no option for **health insurance**.

Working mother, Grisel Guadarrama is one of them.

Tuesday, she is spoke publicly about the daily challenges.

"Not paying bills on time, because I know I have to pay for medication. Canceling Eric's appointments all the time, because we can't afford it," said Guadarrama.

She is **joining** forces with democratic leaders to call for a solution.

"We need to get something done, people are losing their lives. We need to send the message that we care about our citizens, not just about the bottom line," said Utah Democratic Party Chair, Peter Corroon.

Six republican lawmakers are **working** on a plan to bridge the gap.

Last month they announced they agree on a concept, but missed a self imposed deadline to roll it out.

Democrats say it's unacceptable.

"They are not lazy, they just need a helping hand to get back on their feet. And I'll tell you, the biggest cure to homelessness that we could implement now in our state is to have Medicaid expansion," said Scott Howell, Pioneer Park Coalition Chair.

For Brent Frisby's wife, Carol who passed away this summer it's too late, but in her honor he pushes forward.

"She is here in spirit. She is going to see this through, so that other people don't have to suffer," said Frisby.

House republicans are concerned about sustainability and making sure the state doesn't get stuck with unexpected costs.

The plan the Gang of Six is considering would shift the cost to those that would benefit from Medicaid dollars, like hospitals and pharmacies.

In response to this rally Republican Party Chair, James Evans says democrats are using emotion to manipulate and advance the cause of big government.

He says he's confident republican [leaders](#) will find a fiscally responsible solution.

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