

Partial Medicaid expansion plan moving forward at Capitol and with feds

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SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (ABC4 Utah)- A proposal that would extend Medicaid coverage to some of the Utahns who fall into the coverage gap has passed the Utah legislature.

Representative Jim Dunnigan's House Bill 437 passed the Senate on a vote of 19-8.

HB 437 would expands the states Medicaid program to 16,000 of the 43,000 Utahns who have no option for health insurance

Most of them that will get coverage under the bill struggle with homelessness and behavioral or mental health issues.

It will cost the state \$30,000,000, but hospitals will cover 45% of that cost.

The legislature has been debating Medicaid expansion for a couple of years with no solution.

Going into this session this partial expansion bill was seen as a compromise that could get through both chambers and now it has.

"It's been a lot of work, but we have a lot of supporters, many of them who were at loggerheads last legislative session, they have now combined and I want to thank everybody for coming together on this," said Dunnigan, (R) Taylorsville.

The plan also needs approval from the federal government.

Dunnigan says he got an update from the feds on Tuesday, and there is nothing in the bill they are saying no to.

