



2/24/2021

To whom It may concern,

We are writing in response to the proposed state consolidation of the Utah Department of Health and Human Services and moving certain Medicaid programs to the Department of Workforce Services. As advocates working with and on behalf of the many Utahns who rely on social service programs, we are writing to express our concerns. We believe that such a significant decision warrants greater review and discussion before legislation passes. **We recommend that that this issue be studied over the interim to ensure the most efficient state agencies and promote the health and wellness of all Utahns. We appreciate your commitment to building the most effective state systems.**

The pandemic has underscored the role of Utah’s social service and public health infrastructure that are critical in helping us weather this crisis. Throughout the pandemic, the most vulnerable communities in Utah have been hit the hardest, exacerbating existing health disparities. This is not the time to disrupt agency functions, services and response through a major reorganization or merger.

We ask that *before* this decision is made and legislation is passed, there is meaningful stakeholder engagement, broad and transparent assessment of the risks and benefits, and more discussion to the outcomes we are seeking to improve. This will ensure that we have a positive impact on the Utahns who rely on public health and social service programs.

Please reach out if you would like contact information to follow up with any of the signers. **We applaud your efforts to strengthen and improve state social service systems. We hope to work together, alongside you, to develop the best solutions and improve the lives of all Utahns.**

Thank you,

AARP Utah  
 American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter  
 Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities  
 Take Care Utah  
 Utahns Against Hunger  
 Utah Citizens Council

Utah Health Policy Project  
 Utah Housing Coalition  
 Utah Nurses Association  
 Utah Support Advocates for Recovery  
 Awareness  
 Voices for Utah Children

