



HB391 On the Brink

Monday morning's 46-27-2 vote by the Utah House to pass [HB391S02](#) (Prohibition of Medicaid Expansion) was an attempt to pull the rug out from under 130,000 Utahns who would qualify for better health care under the expansion. During the days preceding the vote—and [during heated discussion on the House floor](#)—myths and emotion often overruled facts and the deliberative process. As the legislative session winds down this week, we anticipate that [more reasonable actions will prevail in the Senate](#)--but we still need you stay involved (because anything can happen at the last minute).

[Watch the [video](#) of the HB391 floor debate]

Filled with [unusual theatrics](#), the House floor debate on HB391 was anything but boring. However, the spectacle obscured the fact that HB391 is a [last-minute attempt](#) to short-circuit the deliberative process on Medicaid expansion that many members of the legislature and the [governor's office](#) have asked for. The current version of HB391 materialized last Wednesday during a [House committee hearing](#) when the new text prohibiting Utah

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Follow which bills are being debated and voted on in the House and Senate floors – a crucial tool in the final days of the session

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Choose "House Floor" or "Senate Floor" to watch LIVE discussion at the Capitol - Or select prior days to watch recorded debates. For example: [HB391 Floor Debate](#)

Bills we are interested in:

from expanding Medicaid was [substituted into a bill](#) attempting to nullify the Affordable Care Act (ACA). One Republican member of the committee complained that he had three minutes to consider the new text before he was asked to vote on it. And as HB391's supporters [made their arguments](#) to the House on Monday, it became clear that everyone needs to devote more time and energy to studying this issue during the interim session.

To begin the floor debate on HB391, sponsor [Rep. Jake Anderegg](#) (R-Lehi) held up the [fiscal note for HB153](#) and explained that the Medicaid expansion would cost Utahns residents and businesses \$248 million (in FY2014). He claimed these funds were "above and beyond" the incoming federal contribution. In fact, the amount of \$248 million he quoted solely reflects federal spending. According to the [fiscal note](#) for HB153 and [other sources](#), Utah will actually save money in the first four years of the expansion. Plus, over the first ten years, Utah's investment of \$263 million for the expansion will [generate \\$5.2 billion in federal funding](#). Dividing the state's investment over ten years, it will cost Utah roughly \$200 per person/per year to provide health care coverage to over 130,000 residents and significantly reduce the state's uninsured rate.

Moving on from the fiscal numbers, the proponents of HB391 next claimed that charity care could aid the Utahns who would stand to gain coverage under the expansion. [Rep. Mike Kennedy](#) (R-Alpine), a family doctor who has described how he applied for Medicaid for his young family, spent most of his floor time discussing charity care. He suggested that if the LDS Church he belongs to requested that he perform more charity health

For the complete list, see [Bill Tracker \(Week #7\)](#)

[HB391S02 – Prohibition of the Medicaid Expansion](#) (J. Anderegg)

---Last Location: House Rules, could be heard on Senate floor at any time; ([status](#))

Note: This is a very high priority bill for UHPP. Please contact your state senator to make sure they are informed to vote NO on HB391--or vote YES on the safer 3rd Substitute proposed by Sen. Todd Weiler.

[SB42 - Medical School Admissions](#) (J. Valentine)

---Last Location: House Floor; ([status](#))

[HB160 - Health System Reform Amendments](#) (J. Dunnigan)

---Last Location: Senate floor; ([status](#))

[HB106 - Third Substitute Medicaid Inspector General Amendments](#)

(R. Wilcox, J. Dunnigan)

---Last Location: Signed by the governor; ([status](#))

[HB153 - Medicaid Amendments](#) (R. Chavez-Houck)

---Last Location: Returned to House Rules for interim study; ([status](#))

March 18, 2013

[National Health Insurance](#)

care, he would, and others would follow. “What if the 3,000 doctors in the state were willing to do that? I would do it in a heartbeat. Would others do the same? I believe they would,” Kennedy said. For more discussion on the fallacy of charity care as a serious replacement for comprehensive medical insurance, see the article [Charity Care Fail](#) in this newsletter.

Opponents of HB391 spoke next: Rep. Marie Paulson (D-Cottonwood Heights) and Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck (D-Salt Lake City). Rep. Chavez-Houck focused on the human benefit of the expansion, highlighting the stories of the 130,000 uninsured Utahns who could receive coverage. Rep. Paulson provided the fiscal argument by mentioning the billions of federal dollars that would come into Utah—some of it our own taxpayer dollars returning to the state. But in the end, their arguments did not sway enough Republican members of the house—as only 13 GOP members joined the body’s 14 Democrats to vote against the bill.

By rushing HB391 through the last week of the session, legislators are dismissing the months of work by their colleagues and the [governor’s office](#) to study the issue—and their pledge to continue [to study it during the interim session](#). Plus, making this premature and unnecessary decision right now also ignores the results of the state’s official cost-benefit study which the governor commissioned last year for \$100,000.

What Happens Next:

We’ve heard conflicting reports on whether the Senate will hear the bill on Wednesday, or whether it will stay stuck in the Rules committee until the clock runs out on

[Marketplace Stakeholder Conference Call](#)

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. MDT
Participants: **Gary Cohen**, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight; **Cindy Mann**, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services; and; **Julie Bataille**, Director, Office of Communications
Registration: If you are interested in participating in this national call and to receive the call-in details, please [register through this link](#)

[Love Give Utah](#)

Friday, March 22, 2013 – All Day
>>Give to the nonprofits that you love - like [UHPP!](#)
>>24 hours of online philanthropy.
Point, click, donate, awesome!
>>Watch this [video](#) to learn more.

Visit the [legislature’s website](#) to see the legislative schedule, and find bills and representatives and senators. Check out UHPP’s [Bill Tracker \(Week#7\)](#) for the latest details on over 20 pieces of health care legislation

Join us at the Capitol every Wednesday afternoon for these three strategy meetings in the [Capitol Senate Building](#) (East Side)

Utahns for Medicaid Expansion (U4ME)

Thursday at midnight (as Wednesday's [Tribune article suggests](#)). Since HB391 is a message bill dressed up as a law, we are hoping Senate leaders agree that it should not be prioritized ahead of bills with true merit during the last days of the session.

But we need to be prepared for any outcome. Now—and we mean this morning—is the time to contact your Senator and ask them to vote against HB391 if it comes up for a vote. You can also suggest they vote for a substitute bill that is planned to be offered by [Sen. Todd Weiler](#). Sen. Weiler's substitute will allow Senators to take prudent middle ground position that supports further study of the issue. Find your Senator at this [website](#)—and look up their contact info on [UHPP's Legislative Roster](#).

The Medicaid expansion could still be in jeopardy--and now is the time to make your voice heard on this important issue.

Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00pm
Location: [Olmsted Room](#) at the Capitol- Senate Building (East Side)

UHPP Coalition Meetings (U4ME)

Family Investment Coalition

Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00pm
Location: [Olmsted Room](#) at the Capitol- Senate Building (East Side)

Real Exchange Utah (RxUtah)

Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm
Location: [Olmsted Room](#) at the Capitol- Senate Building (East Side)
Discussion: Post-Session planning and study/action plans



Bill Tracker for Week #7

During this [final week](#) of the legislative session, find out how your favorite health care bill (HB160,



Charity Care Fail

[Charity care](#) came up often this week during the debate over HB391. But at best, charity care is



The Short, Happy Life of SB85

The [Community Health Worker bill](#) sponsored by Sen. Luz Robles (D-Salt

SB42, HB106) ended up on [UHPP's Bill Tracker \(Week #7\)](#)

Read more [here](#).

episodic and unreliable for people who need a consistent source of health care.

Read more [here](#)

Lake) died a tragic and somewhat comical death on the Senate floor Monday night.

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Utah Health Policy Project
508 East South Temple, Suite 45
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

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