

Tuesday, October 27, 2009 — Last update: 11:37 a.m. MDT

SIGN IN | REGISTER | SUBSCRIBE | E-EDITION | ARCHIVES (DAILY INDEX) | MOBILE

Salt Lake City
Light Snow Mist
32°
Weather | Traffic



Deseret News

SEARCH DESERETNEWS.COM

GO

Site Web: powered by YAHOO! SEARCH



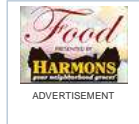
Now, all Qwest High-Speed Internet® customers get FREE Qwest Wi-Fi
access at more than 17,000 hotspots nationwide, powered by AT&T Wi-Fi.

I'm a HOTSPOT

Qwest

See locations near you

Important details



- Home
- Utah
- Sports
- Life
- Entertainment
- LDS Newsline
- Movies
- Multimedia
- Opinion
- Business
- World & nation
- Blogs
- Obituaries
- Classifieds
- Education
- Salt Lake County
- Utah County
- Davis County
- Crime
- Politics
- Legislature
- Weather
- Columnists

Utah lawmakers dislike Reid's public-option proposal

By **James Thalman**
and **Bob Bernick Jr.**
Deseret News

Published: Monday, Oct. 26, 2009 8:53 p.m. MDT

17 comments

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | E-MAIL | PRINT | FONT +/-

Page: 1 2 Next >

The only good thing about Sen. Harry Reid's proposed health-care reform compromise is that states can opt out from federal reforms, several Utah lawmakers and health-reform advocates said Monday.

Senate Majority Leader Reid, D-Nev., announced Monday he will send a reform bill to the Senate floor for a vote that contains the controversial public insurance option and an opt-out clause for states that have designed an alternative to provide coverage for those who can't find a private plan.

Reid's proposal could well be the hybrid compromise that gives liberal members of the Senate what they want in reform and offers conservatives a way to avoid the government takeover of health care they fear, said Utahns on both sides of the debate.

Proponents of adding a new public option a la Medicare/Medicaid say it's a vital safety net for people who can't otherwise obtain insurance coverage. Opponents say having an opt-out clause is the safety valve that Utah and other states well down the road to their own reforms need to protect them from federal meddling.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said he's "disappointed" by Reid's proposal, calling it "absolutely the wrong way" to go and amounts to "new window dressing" on the failed idea of a government fix.

Story continues below



"At a time when major government programs like Medicare and Medicaid are already on a path to financial collapse, creating a brand new government program will not only worsen our long-term financial outlook but also negatively impact American families who enjoy the private coverage of their choice," he said.

There are also many American families who don't have that choice or are losing it when they lose their jobs during the economic downturn, Reid said, adding that once someone loses coverage it's nearly impossible to regain it under current insurance practices that in effect make just about everybody who goes more than a month without coverage ineligible for a new plan.

Americans should recognize Reid's compromise for what it is, said Judi Hilman, executive director

Latest updates | Most popular | Most commented

ADVERTISEMENTS

- Dems press for extended benefits 11:37 a.m.
- Expert: Russia balks at zero nuke talks 11:35 a.m.
- The Met returns Egyptian artifact 11:34 a.m.
- Church of Scientology convicted 11:34 a.m.
- Korver surgery pushed back 11:23 a.m.
- Obama to reconsider trucker rule 11:22 a.m.
- 2 men accused of terror attacks plot 11:21 a.m.
- No decision on balloon case charges 11:20 a.m.
- Gore: Don't shift gaze from stimulus 11:18 a.m.
- Obama puts \$3.4B toward power grid 11:15 a.m.



Dad blog: Journalism's future?
Imagine: Every child today as a journalist tomorrow. Friend and Salt...



In sickness or in health: A News series
A look at health care in a Deseret News series.



Mom blog: Teletubby dads and naughty nurses
I've never been a huge fan of Halloween.

Latest comments



1A football: Mon. Valley at Duchesne
Eagles said:
Go Eagles!!!! Show em what ya got

of the Utah Health Policy Project. It both underscores the need for reforms to be a state/federal partnership, and it gives those in charge of Utah's reform effort confidence that tailoring it to the state won't be for naught.

"We heartily applaud Sen. Reid's state-optional version of the public plan option," she said, noting that even though 69 percent of Utah small-business owners surveyed recently said they wanted a public plan option. "I have confidence that Utah will figure out a way to make insurance affordable and accessible without a public plan."

Page: [1](#) [2](#) [Next >](#)

Recent comments

18 comments

I love how these guys are reacting to a plan they haven't even seen...

Reading is fundamental | Oct. 27, 2009 at 11:22 a.m.

This is such exciting news. To think we are one step closer to...

Mowgli | Oct. 27, 2009 at 10:52 a.m.

Won't we pay for it anyway through federal taxes? Why not opt in?

Anonymous | Oct. 27, 2009 at 10:34 a.m.

 [Add your comment](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[Super Cheap Car Insurance](#)

Compare Multiple Car Insurance Quotes Online - Plans from USInsuranceOnline.com

[Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance](#)

(\$200,000 Refinance under SeeRefinanceRates.com

[Refinance Now at 4.25% Fixed](#)

No hidden fees-4.4% APR! No obligation. Get 4 free quotes. MortgageRefinance.LendGo.com

Ads by Yahoo!

[deseretnews.com: Home](#) | [Subscription services](#) | [Contact us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Purchase photos](#) | [RSS](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Get Qwest High-Speed Internet® w/FREE 2 GB online backup

Connection speeds up to 7 Mbps
\$25/mo. for 12 mos.



Restrictions apply

