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[Locals Say Health Reform Still Needed for Those who Have Insurance](#)

09.08.2009 by [Jeff Robinson](#)



(KCPW News) As Utah's congressional delegation returns to Washington after the summer break, some local residents want them to know healthcare reform is at the top of their agenda. A few of them gathered

at the Salt Lake City main library today for a roundtable discussion. Environmental consultant Ben Gaddis said healthcare reform is still important for people like him who do have insurance already.

“To provide a specific example, when our child was born this spring, my wife thought her water had broken, so being conscientious consumers of healthcare, we thought, okay, we’ll call the doctor and the hospital to see what the difference in cost is,” he said. “Neither could tell us what it would cost for a simple check of ‘did my water break or not.’ In the end, a checkup that lasted less than five minutes cost \$115.”

Gaddis also noted that he’s only covered at two hospitals in the Salt Lake Valley, which creates problems in emergency situations.

The Utah Health Policy Project organized today’s event. Executive Director Judi Hilman doesn’t believe the public healthcare option being discussed in Congress will be signed into law in its current form.

“But what we could end up with is a trigger mechanism for that, and what that says is, you know what, these are going to be private, market-based plans,” she said. “If they fail, and if the costs don’t go down, then the trigger would come, and then you trot out the public plan or the non-profit version of that.”

Hilman said while there should be a modest expansion of Medicaid for people under the poverty line, she believes it’s still possible for everyone else who lacks healthcare to be covered by private insurance if the system is reformed.

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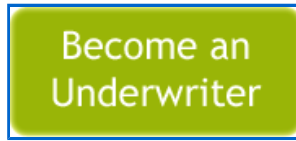
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