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# Deseret News

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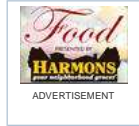
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## Utah group seeks health-care reform minus the politics

By James Thalman  
Deseret News

Published: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 11:28 p.m. MDT

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The health-care reform debate lands in the lap of Congress this week, whether they like it or not, and lawmakers as well as President Barack Obama had better get busy working out a fix and stop playing politics.

At least, that's what a group of working and insured Utahns called for Tuesday during a special roundtable discussion on reform.

In stark contrast to other public meetings and protests during the past month that devolved into shouting and name calling, the Utah group calmly and sincerely asked Congress and Obama to focus on fixing the enormous problems with the system and not on how best to spin the issue in their favor.

"I don't think they get what's going on, and I'm not sure they're even listening at all," said Ben Gaddis, an environmental consultant.

Like most working Utahns, Gaddis is insured through a plan at his work and has a story about how health care isn't working, even for people who have good insurance plans.

"When our child was born this spring, my wife thought her water had broken," he said. "So being conscientious consumers of health care, we thought, 'OK, we'll call the doctor and the hospital to see what the difference in cost is.' 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."

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Casey Hill, a young father in Davis County, said he is grateful for the health care provided for a daughter who was born with a serious and expensive heart defect.

Hill said his family's journey through the insurance "morass" because of their child's malady has turned "into a full-time job for my wife the past five years just to handle the paperwork."

But even routine procedures can become problematic, he said. When their son was born, the family decided not to use the hospital-stay benefit in their plan, saving their insurance company \$1,800.

2 photos



Jeffrey D. Alfred, Deseret News

Judi Hilman speaks to the media about health care reform in Salt Lake City Tuesday.

[GALLERY \(2 PHOTOS\)](#)

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circumcision because it was done at a clinic, not at the hospital.

"Even though it was a covered procedure, because we had left the hospital without having it done, it wasn't covered," Hill said. "So you can be healthy people trying to save the system a little bit of money and it will come back to bite you."

Tom Hori, a small-business owner in Bountiful and an active member of the Davis Chamber of Commerce, said if something isn't done about the rising cost of insurance premiums for the insurance plan he offers his 15 employees, he foresees the day coming that he will no longer be able to offer it.

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