



## **INTRODUCING...THE UTAH HEALTH COOPERATIVE**

### **A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE PLAN FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE IN UTAH**

#### **SUMMARY**

The Utah Health Cooperative (UHC) is our proposal for financing health care for all Utahns. We begin with a simple premise: Utah taxpayers are *already* spending enough money on health care; we're just not spending it efficiently or sharing risk appropriately. Our 'states' rights' proposal preserves fee-for-service medicine and builds on Utah's strong nonprofit traditions. The UHC follows our **6 Principles for Health Care Reform** (see reverse): It is patient-centered, business-friendly, and fiscally responsible. It provides a roadmap to sustainable health care security for all of Utah's families.

#### **FACTS and FIGURES**

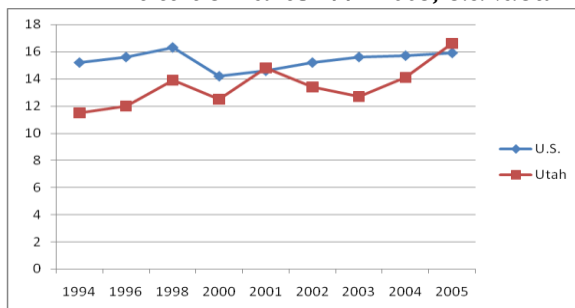
For more than a decade health care policy in Utah has languished under misguided principles. The result? A decade of increasing costs, diminishing quality, and rapidly rising numbers of uninsured. Businesses, too, are feeling the pinch. Health benefit costs are increasing by double digits each year, making it impossible for small businesses to compete in a global economy.

*Premiums Paid by Workers Rising 5x Faster than Wages 2000-04*

	Change in average insurance premium	Change in Average Earnings
Utah	66.3%	13.2%
U.S.	35.9%	12.4%

Last year the increase in Utah's uninsured rate was 7 times the national rate of increase. Why? Because our economy is dominated by small businesses, and they can no longer absorb the increases in health care costs.

*Percent Uninsured 1994-2005, U.S. vs. Utah*



It is time for bold solutions to Utah's health care crisis.

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

##### **But will I get the care I need, when I need it?**

Yes. The UHC is a statewide, non-profit health insurance plan covering every Utahn for all medically-necessary care including: acute, rehabilitative, long term and home care, mental health, dental services, medications and supplies, and preventive and public health measures. Through an evidence-based process, boards of medical experts would determine which services are effective for a given condition.

##### **How would the UHC be funded?**

State and Federal expenditures already account for 60% of total health spending in Utah. These resources will be diverted to the UHC. The rest will be derived from citizens and employers in the form of progressive taxation or a flat tax that levels the playing field (instead of escalating premiums, which is how individuals and businesses *currently* pay for health care). Importantly, the UHC will be budget neutral, meaning that on average Utah's citizens and businesses would pay no more for health care after the creation of the UHC than is the case now. And yet we will be getting more for every dollar, since every single Utahn would be covered.

##### **How can a budget neutral plan cover all Utahns?**

By cutting administrative waste and channeling those funds right back into health care delivery. The administrative savings of a plan such as the UHC have been studied numerous times, including by the US General Accounting Office. Here in Utah, actuarial data indicate that a cooperative plan would save approximately 50% of the administrative burden of a multiple payer system due to non-duplication of administrative functions and elimination of marketing costs. In short, the problem is not that we don't have enough money, it is that we are spending it on the wrong things.

##### **How can I learn more?**

Visit [www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org) for a copy of the full proposal. There you can sign up for updates (*Health Matters*) or get involved in advocacy activities.