

Utahns urge lawmakers to pass Gov. Gary Herbert's Medicaid expansion alternative

KSL.com

October 19, 2014

Story Link: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=32013767>

Comments Link: <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=148&sid=32013767&comments=true>



[Just-commenting](#)

posted 1 day ago

We need to get something done to provide access to medical care for all our citizens. How many people have died and suffered while our Utah politicians ignore the needs of our people? How many more will die or suffer while the governor and the legislature do nothing? This is not an issue of refusing government money, because if it were, they would turn down highway money, tell the federal government to get Hill AFB out of Utah and many other things. This is a mean-spirited and merciless smashing the faces of the poor and the working class into the mud. Our Utah politicians will gladly take federal finds for nearly anything else, so long as it does not help the disadvantaged.

Like



[Matt007b](#)

posted 23 hours ago

I agree! Too many people need help and they're playing politics with lives :P

Like



[molympics](#)

posted 22 hours ago

The elitists among us do not need or want the support provided for the lower class populations. This is true historically and still true now. Greed runs rampant through this society and the "I've got mine" attitude prevails. What is missing is the accounting for Utah tax dollars that are designated to provide these healthcare services. Our governor has found a "Utah solution" and yet we have State legislators who are not willing to follow up on that solution. In addition, our Federal representatives and senators actively work to undermine the Federal Union. And the most recent Congressional wanna be says she

will defund the ACA which created the Federal shutdown a year ago, much to the detriment of Utah. The lack of any balance in this RED state is appalling, IMHO
like



[driad](#)

posted 20 hours ago

More talk of one sided balance...There is another freedom here at play. The freedom to move to another state that more suits your ideology. I do not wish to change a blue state to red and I would never move to one and expect everyone in that state to change and call them names when they don't.
like



[nonaffiliated9246](#)

posted 13 hours ago

Look at all the people moving to Utah from california. Liberalism failed on california, so they move to Utah to try it again. No thanks, liberals stay in your state and reap the rewards of your political choices.
like



[The Observer](#)

posted 21 hours ago

It's not the job of government "to provide access to medical care for all our citizens." If you want to provide extra benefits to others, then go ahead and work extra hard so you can do that. But don't demand that government tax me and spend more of my money just because you think government should be more charitable with my money.
like



[CharlieMerfy](#)

posted 12 hours ago

This isn't about charity it's about correcting a market failure recognized by nearly all economist. Unless a person is pulling in a six figure income they are most likely benefiting off of a vast amount of subsidies verse what they are actually paying into taxes. We don't pay fair market value for energy, gas, water and food. To be able to use the term "my money" when it comes to taxes would require a significant contribution in order complain about what you receive verses what you paid. Most of us are living of the benefits of what a small percentage of wealthy people paid into taxes. The free market provides no path to insure all Americans yet we all benefit from those who are insured.
like



[Tamara J.](#)

posted 21 hours ago

Why do we need to provide? Our society is making all people equal, equally deserving that is. It should be equally attainable because of hard work and industry, not because it's free to them and costly to everyone else. My husband works hard and because of the free riders, we are paying double premiums this next year, and seriously reduced access to good doctors. Equal you say? Not. We pay and others get it for free. We work hard and others take. Until everyone is contributing equally, it's called socialism and it will bust. Big time. Everything has a cost...

like



[HereFishyFishyFishy](#)

posted 18 hours ago

We are a hardworking family and are stuck in this coverage gap, we are not freeloaders and never have been. My husband has a pacemaker and needed a replacement this last month, we make too little to qualify for Obama care and too much which is over (\$762 dollars a month) so therefore we were denied coverage. This expansion of the gap doesn't mean free or handouts, it simply means insuring!

like



[YetAnotherReader](#)

posted 16 hours ago

@Tamara, from your comment it appears that you do not understand the issue at hand. If the State does nothing, then a rather large group of our State's lowest income earners (yes, this issue affects employed people), will have NO affordable options for health insurance. They will not qualify for Medicaid, and they will not get the Tax Credit that you and your husband will likely get. There will be substantial people who earn more than these low income folks but these higher income people will be getting a huge subsidy/credit on their premiums. For this low income group of 125,000+ people, they will pay full cost for their premiums; no subsidy or credit. That is simply wrong and needs to be remedied. The Governor's plan does not give them insurance for free. This assistance is not socialism. For them to pay 50%+ of their income for health insurance because the Legislature fails to act is a crime. Despite what you may be paying, it is not likely 50%+.

like



[parley1](#)

posted 18 hours ago

Not one person has died because they have been denied care. You're dead wrong!

like



[parley1](#)

posted 1 day ago

Government provided "anything" is a trap door that more and more people will fall into every year. If we continue expanding Medicaid people will continue fill the vacuum until it takes in the majority of the population. Then who pays for it?

This is unnecessary as we already have FREE healthcare clinics where patients can have access to a doctor and receive FREE medications from the pharmaceutical companies. I would much rather see a system like this expand where private money and volunteer physician services take the place of government provided healthcare. Governor Herbert, like all other politicians, wants to be able to say that under his leadership more people are "cared for". We are fast becoming a bankrupt welfare country. People need to provide for themselves!

like



[Cloud_Born](#)

posted 22 hours ago

Let me know when you fix the economy. More and more full time workers don't get any benefits to pay for healthcare and many cant even afford rent and food. You really have made this black and white and it's everything but.

like



[jds7171](#)

posted 15 hours ago

It actually is black and white. Government keeps prices high and keeps prices from falling. They actually make prices increase every year.

If it wasn't for the government and forcing the economy to have a minimum inflation of 2% every year things wouldn't cost so much. It wasn't to bad when it first started out and when the businesses could keep up with cost of living raises.

Now businesses can't, or won't, give cost of living increases so the whole scam is falling down. I don't blame businesses. Why should they give cost of living increases when they are not responsible for the cost of living increasing.

Stop believing inflation is good. Stop voting for politicians that believe in inflation. Forcing prices to increase is never a good thing.

like



[HereFishyFishyFishy](#)

posted 18 hours ago

I would happily pay for our healthcare coverage, we are stuck in the gap where we simply CANNOT get insurance! Before you spout off make sure you know the facts. This is a real legitimate issue and needs attention, I have a husband with a heart defect and we just had a heart procedure done with absolutely no healthcare because we were denied. Thank heavens the doctor and hospital are being accommodating and working with us!

like



[Richard O.](#)

posted 1 day ago

I believe in helping people who help themselves. Let's make sure however that this program never turns into a complete government handout for people who don't do anything on their part. Let's also make sure that it never turns into a complete government controlled program.

like



[Slugger](#)

posted 1 day ago

It is a hard situation, for sure, and an emotional plea. I am not in favor of large scale social welfare subsidies but the money on the table is from the federal government, not the state, so the tax liability is somewhat diluted. That said, the middle working class and commercial insurers are already subsidizing the cost of care by paying the difference of what hospitals and providers need to cover their costs to provide care. Typically, Medicaid and self pay equates to roughly \$0.05 to \$0.25 on the dollar, which means private insurers and the insured middle class pay much higher, more than 100% on the dollar to make up those deficiencies. So we are now double-dipping.

like



[dawgdeelux](#)

posted 1 day ago

Again, not a single word about who get's to pay for all of this. Not a single mention about the debt we'll owe to the federal government after we accept their funding even though it will run out soon. Not talking about the effects this will have on the medical care the people that actually pay for insurance will end up with. Sadly this is a left leaning policy put out by a Governor that for the most part has tip toed along the Right side of the political line. Truth be told, there's a Federal Money Carrot out there and our governor is chasing it at a dead run.

like



[YetAnotherReader](#)

posted 15 hours ago

"After we accept their funding"? @dawgdeelux, it is our money! We've already given it to the feds. This just brings more of it back to Utah. If our Legislature does nothing, your tax dollars will gladly be shipped on to California or other states.

like



[nonaffiliated9246](#)

posted 13 hours ago

It's not your money if you get it all back next spring in your income tax return.

like



[mailman6195](#)

posted 1 day ago

The only reason a Herbert alternative to Medicare expansion exists is because 1. Citizens are dying and doing nothing, like republicans have been doing for years, will make them look heartless 2. By expanding Medicare under the ACA and saving Utahans lives by giving them access to healthcare would make President Obama look good because it would be impossible to not give him any credit for the solution. So republicans play politics with these peoples very lives by denying them Medicare because that would make the President and democrats look good. Rather these people die first then let that happen.

Disgusting Herbert! Should be ashamed of yourself!

like



[dawgdeelux](#)

posted 23 hours ago

I haven't seen any statistic in reference to how many people are getting dead because they aren't being seen by doctors. Can you point me to any? The fact is, if you are sick, if you are injured, if you are addicted you can get the help you need. It is available and accessible.

like



[}}{ Rose }}{](#)

posted 20 hours ago

It's less dead and more just miserable and bankrupt. Tgat is what I've noticed. It's the added stress of 'should I go to the ER and rack up two months pay in bills or is this pain something that will just go away' or 'the ER can't help me because I have a busted knee and a hernia that need to get fixed so I can work but I can't afford it so I'm stuck without work'. Living without access to medical care is frightening and it's awful when everyone just wants to kick you in the face and tell you it's all your fault and to deal with it.

like



[robotfood](#)

posted 1 day ago

We shouldn't even have an alternative. We should have the full expansion. We're already paying for it, so why not?

like



[}}{ Rose }}{](#)

posted 1 day ago

As someone who used to be stuck with no healthcare options they need to just pass this now. Yeah we worked hard and are finally able to afford healthcare on our own, but I will never forget what it was like to be without.

[12 »](#)

You must be logged in to post a comment.

[login here](#)

[Advertise with us](#) [Report this ad](#)

Comment Board Leaders (24hrs)

[Tweet/Share](#)

[Advertise with us](#) [Report this ad](#)

[Matt007b](#)

posted 23 hours ago

I was working full time paying taxes, never went to the doctor (didn't have to!) And then all the sudden I got royally sick randomly landed in the er room...doctors couldn't figure it out for years but I lost the ability to work (lost insurance without a job). Finally figured out I have food allergies that just popped up in my life...I applied for insurance while I was out of work, and not one insurance company would touch me (this was before aca)

Being scary sick unemployed, I was lucky I had parents to fall back on..but not everyone is lucky...I would have been on the street without them!

Seriously they needed to expand coverage for people who can't afford it! They have no options!

like



[driad](#)

posted 19 hours ago

Sad, but why force someone to pay for your gamble of not continuing insurance. You cannot be denied insurance until it lapses. I never went to the doctor growing up. Yet, my parents carried full insurance even though they never needed it. I myself grew up, got married, had kids and bought the most expensive insurance (even when I was single and going to college - and on my own dime. It was painful to make the premium payments but I did for many years without needing it. Then my oldest daughter got sick, extremely sick. Life threatening. Thankfully, I was prepared medically for it as was my father for his kids. We maxed out the catastrophic part of our insurance. We then spent our life savings. We used up our food storage. We put up our house and cars for sale. Waiting until after something happens is like telling the lottery officials you meant to buy the ticket with the winning numbers after the lottery is over. I would never force anyone else to pay for me or mine especially when I could do it for myself with a little sacrifice. Anyone's failure to prepare should not necessitate a crisis on others. Likewise, everyone should get out of debt, carry good life, car and health insurance, have a savings, and build up a food supply and anything else that is needed for you and yours. It isn't easy and takes a lot of sacrifice...but needing it and not having it is worse as Matt007b described. We still scrimp and save and plan and do, there is always more prepping...With or without the government we will be prepared for me and mine.

like



[Scott T.](#)

posted 23 hours ago

Just go with the law of the land and take the full Medicare money. We already pay for it yet we won't accept the funds because the fear is that it will make the word obamacare sound not so scary.

like



[The Observer](#)

posted 21 hours ago

The law of the land is that states get to choose whether or not to take the money and likewise match it with their own state funds.

like



[Scott T.](#)

posted 13 hours ago

So let's not take it and instead let thousands go without healthcare.

like



[HereFishyFishyFishy](#)

posted 12 hours ago

I and my family are one of the families stuck in this coverage gap, we are hard working and would never accept handouts. This coverage gap is a real thing, it's not simply for the poor and lazy. We make too much to qualify for Medicaid which is \$762 a month and less than 28,000 a year, which is the lowest amount you can make to qualify for Obama care. We cannot afford private insurance! The deductibles alone are atrocious think \$10,000? since we know we would have to pay them as my husband has a pacemaker and just had his surgery (uninsured I might add) we were stuck with all of the bills. Thank heavens the hospital and doctor are working with us and are being very understanding. This coverage gap is something that needs to be addressed, I don't want our state or country going into any further debt but the system is certainly broken and hardworking families like mine need the insurance, we simply don't have a choice. Please be open minded before casting your opinion and lumping everyone into the same category, we are not poor nor are we rich but we should be able to see a doctor to live without paying astronomical fees!