



LCPD

LEGISLATIVE COALITION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Post Office Box 120, Springville, UT 84663-0120

Telephone: 801-243-1066

www.lcpdut.org

"Citizens Working Together to Improve Public Policy"

January, 2015

The Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, a statewide non-profit organization representing Utahns with disability and their families, is an active participant in Utah's health care reform process. We have spent countless hours studying the various options to provide health coverage to some of Utah's most vulnerable citizens. After careful analysis, we have concluded that Governor Herbert's *Healthy Utah* plan is the best option for people with disabilities and their families. Our decision to support *Healthy Utah* is based on the following:

- *Healthy Utah* allows individuals to earn up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and be eligible for either private health insurance or if appropriate traditional Medicaid services.
- Of the newly eligible adults with incomes from 0-133% FPL
 - 15% are not working because they are disabled*
 - 31% are not in the labor market because they are "taking care of home/family."* There are many low income caregivers who lack health insurance because employment outside the home is not an option. They are often the primary caretaker for their family member with disability.
- The Division for Services for People with Disabilities' Waiting List could be reduced for those individuals who are income eligible and only need access to traditional Medicaid services.

We urge you to **consider** and to **support** *Healthy Utah*. It is a cost effective plan to cover low income Utahns with quality health coverage at a reasonable price. The Alternative Plans (Option 1 and Option 2) will cost the State of Utah more money and cover fewer Utahns.** It is our opinion that the Alternative Plans do not provide adequate medical coverage for people with disabilities as there is no option for traditional Medicaid. Moreover, many hardworking family caregivers will not have access to health insurance under the proposed Alternative Plans.

You have a wonderful opportunity to help your low income constituents with disabilities. Supporting *Healthy Utah* will provide much needed access to healthcare to your constituents while helping the health of Utah's economy. *Healthy Utah* costs less and brings revenue and jobs to the state.

If you have any questions please contact:

Joyce Dolcourt
Chair
(801) 718-3013

*A report by Norman J. Waitzman, PhD., et. al. "Who would be newly eligible for coverage under the Healthy Utah Plan or full Medicaid expansion? A demographic and labor market profile." July 2014.

** Presentation to the Utah Health Reform Task Force Task Force by Rep. Jim Dunnigan "Addressing the "Coverage Gap." December 4, 2014