



Released by Close the Gap Idaho

Media Contact:

Neva Santos Cell: 208-407-1854

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Close the Gap Idaho Says Governor's Health Plan Isn't Enough

Group will clarify the differences between primary care access and health care coverage

BOISE—Representatives of the Close the Gap Idaho coalition said today that the governor's primary care plan for low-income Idahoans only partially solves the problem of the health care coverage gap in Idaho. This gap affects 78,000 Idahoans who do not qualify for traditional Medicaid and who aren't paid enough to qualify for help getting coverage on Idaho's health care exchange.

"It's critical to understand that the proposed Primary Care Access Program is not health insurance coverage," said Neva Santos, Executive Director of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians. "Additional access to primary care for those in the gap is a good idea, but the solution to this health care dilemma is to implement full coverage through the Healthy Idaho Plan,"

Close the Gap is a coalition of over 120 organizations statewide that was established in 2013 to close the health care coverage gap in Idaho. Members spoke today at a Statehouse briefing aimed at showing why the Healthy Idaho Plan is a more complete solution than what Governor Otter proposed last week.

Close the Gap sees PCAP as insufficient to manage existing or ongoing ailments. The Healthy Idaho Plan, in contrast, provides full health care coverage and would save Idahoans about \$25 million in tax dollars. Under the Healthy Idaho Plan, those who lack insurance would have access to life-saving treatment including: primary care; specialty care; emergency room visits; ambulance transport; hospitalization; full prescription care; and treatment of cancer, diabetes and other serious diseases. PCAP would not cover any of these essential and life-saving health care services. PCAP will cost the state \$30 million a year and provide enhanced primary care, but not the other important health services that work hand in hand with primary care.

"The governor is absolutely correct that primary care and the patient-centered medical home are key pieces of health care delivery," said Ted Epperly, CEO of Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, "but it is essential that everyone understands PCAP would be limited to just primary care and preventative care, with basic lab, x-ray, pharmacy and limited office based behavioral health services, depending on availability at a given clinic."

Under PCAP, the intervention and treatment of a chronic illness would be limited. That means an illness like leukemia or diabetes would not include specialty service consultation such as endocrinology, oncology or other medical subspecialists.



Dr. Epperly added, “I applaud the governor for his initial efforts to help the gap population, but we must still close our health care coverage gap through implementing the Healthy Idaho Plan and the additional health care services it provides. Otherwise, we are only partially addressing the health care problems for these Idahoans.”

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For more information:

Close the Gap Idaho:

Web: <http://closethegapidaho.org/>

[Visit factsheets from Close the Gap Idaho steering committee members](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Close-the-Gap-Idaho-383793818387609/?fref=ts>

View our PCAP v HIP fiscal comparison [here](#)

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Primary Care with no Specialty Care
is just missing something



The Healthy Idaho Plan is better health care for Idahoans

The PCAP WON'T cover an...

Idaho mom **who finds a lump in her lymph nodes**



Idaho father **injured on his way to work**



29-year old student **with a seizure disorder**



veteran **with a bleeding ulcer**



working mother **diagnosed with leukemia**



part-time student **who needs chemotherapy**



The Healthy Idaho Plan Closes the Gap for ALL Idahoans

Which plan saves Idaho more?

SFY17 Budget Impact: Healthy Idaho Plan v. Primary Care Access Program

New State Fund Allocations:

Healthy Idaho Plan

Costs the State

-\$30,300,000

Primary Care Access Program

Costs the State

-\$30,000,000

County & State Budget Savings:

Healthy Idaho Plan

Saves the State

+\$55,900,000

Primary Care Access Program

\$0

Net State Budget Impact:

Healthy Idaho Plan

Saves the State

+\$25,600,000

*Savings for Idaho
Taxpayers*

Primary Care Access Program

Costs the State

-\$30,000,000

*New Costs for the
State of Idaho*

Healthy Idaho Plan

- ✓ Allows elimination of county & state indigent taxes and programs
- ✓ Comprehensive health coverage
- ✓ \$590M in federal taxes come back to the State of Idaho

Primary Care Access Program

- ✓ Ongoing county & state indigent taxes and programs
- ✓ Limited health services

The Healthy Idaho Plan saves Idaho tax dollars



The Healthy Idaho Plan Summary of Potential Legislation

The Healthy Idaho Plan extends health care coverage to 78,000 working Idaho adults who are in a health care coverage gap. Idahoans who are currently eligible for assistance in the health exchange will remain in a private insurance coverage program. People in the “gap” earn too little to qualify for premium assistance from Your Health Idaho, the Idaho insurance exchange. The double-edged sword is that they earn too much for Medicaid coverage.

The Healthy Idaho Plan leverages best practices from other states while incorporating Idaho values to develop a unique Idaho plan. The plan includes maximum patient accountability, coupled with patient-centered medical homes to keep people healthy which helps avoid costly emergency room visits and hospital stays. The model transitions the current system of paying health care providers for every visit to one based on how well they do in keeping patients healthier. The Healthy Idaho Plan incorporates a hybrid model of health care coverage that utilizes both care management and private insurance to achieve its goals.

The Healthy Idaho Plan Key Components

- Federal funds pay a minimum of 90 percent of Healthy Idaho Plan claims’ costs.
- Adults at 100% - 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) would receive private health care coverage through Idaho’s health insurance exchange.
 - People deemed “medically fragile” will not be enrolled in the private option.
 - Participation by insurers is completely voluntary, with no penalties if they choose not to participate.
- Idahoans who are below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be enrolled in a new care management model that will focus on improving health outcomes.

Benefits for individuals between 100% and 133% FPL include:

- Premium assistance to purchase a Qualified Health Plan: Private insurance carriers will contract with the Department of Health and Welfare to offer silver-level exchange plans that meet all mandatory essential health benefit requirements.

Benefits for individuals below 100% FPL include:

- Patient-centered medical home as a foundation of the service delivery system to manage care more efficiently and effectively. The PCMH model encourages personal involvement and responsibility for



health, including engagement in prevention and disease management strategies that improve health outcomes and decrease overall system costs.

- Personal accountability provisions.

Benefits of the Healthy Idaho Plan

- Saves Idaho taxpayers millions of dollars for the next several years.
- Provides coverage to 103,000 Idahoans:
 - ✓ 25,000 Idahoans between 100% and 133% FPL with access to private insurance through the insurance exchange.
 - ✓ 78,000 Idahoans who fall in the gap below 100% FPL with access to health care coverage via care management.
- Increased coverage options eliminate medical assistance programs for the indigent, allowing savings for taxpayers and resources at the county and state levels.
- Supports private insurance model and Idaho's state-based insurance exchange.
- Redesigning Idaho's Medicaid program supports Idaho's larger healthcare system transformation, focusing on prevention, primary care and paying for outcomes rather than volume of care.

Answers to Other Key Questions about the Healthy Idaho Plan

If passed, how soon would the Healthy Idaho Plan take effect?

If approved, legislation would go into effect immediately to begin the waiver and state plan amendment process. New eligibility criteria would go into effect on January 1, 2017.

How can we make sure Idaho is protected from changes to the federal program?

Legislation would include a trigger clause that directs the Governor to stop implementation if an unfavorable change in federal funds occurs.

Who will be eligible to access expanded health care coverage?

Adults 19-65 years of age who meet income eligibility criteria and are ineligible for any other coverage under Idaho's current Medicaid program.



Close the Gap Idaho Organization Members Statements of Support for the Healthy Idaho Plan

American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network (Idaho)

“If our state continues to reject the federal dollars that have already been set aside to cover hardworking, low-income residents, Idaho policymakers will leave millions of dollars on the table that would provide our state an economic benefit and reduce cancer incidence and mortality.”

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (Idaho)

“The value of health care isn’t measured simply in dollars and cents, but in the strength of our communities, in the economic productivity of our state, and in lives saved. We need to take action now. The Healthy Idaho Plan provides necessary health care coverage, protects Idaho autonomy, and proposes a solution to the health care concerns we continue to face.”

Catholic Charities of Idaho

“In the first year alone, the Healthy Idaho Plan will save hundreds of lives, create thousands of jobs and save the state and counties millions of tax dollars. Closing the coverage gap is the right choice for business, our economy and most importantly, it will alleviate suffering and enhance the quality of life in Idaho.”

Central District Health Department

“We have many public health challenges facing our state. Finding solutions to scenarios such as rising obesity, low child-hood immunization coverage, and some of the highest suicide and prescription drug abuse rates in the country, can seem insurmountable. We have an answer for closing the health insurance coverage gap that will improve the health of Idahoans, provide more efficient and cost-effective health care, and reduce the burden on taxpayers. It is called the Healthy Idaho Plan. At Central District Health, we want everyone in our communities to be healthy, not just those with adequate resources.”



Idaho Academy of Family Physicians

“Family physicians treat these patients but most often when it is too late to have an impact on their affliction and results in a very costly outcome. The Healthy Idaho Plan would allow Idaho’s working poor to acquire health insurance coverage giving them access to a patient-centered medical home and benefit from comprehensive coordinated care.”

Idaho Hospital Association

“We applaud Governor Otter and Director Armstrong for engaging the Legislature in a conversation that is absolutely critical to tens of thousands of fellow Idahoans who have no access to comprehensive health care coverage. PCAP is an initial step, but it is an incomplete solution. The conversation won’t be complete until we have a system in place that not only makes fiscal sense, but also utilizes resources efficiently and effectively to provide appropriate coverage for our fellow Idahoans.”

Idaho Medical Association

The Healthy Idaho Plan provides real solutions to covering the uninsured in our state and will prevent unnecessary suffering and death of Idaho citizens. Plus it will ultimately save Idaho millions in tax dollars and generate millions more in economic activity and growth. It’s the right thing to do!

Idaho Voices for Children

“An estimated 63% of people in the coverage gap are parents or primary caregivers of children. The Healthy Idaho Plan addresses the critical needs of Idaho parents whose jobs don’t offer the health insurance needed to maintain a healthy, safe, stable, and financially secure environment for their children.”

St. Alphonsus Health System

“The Healthy Idaho Plan is a unique solution developed in Idaho by Idaho citizens, as an alternative to traditional Medicaid expansion. The Healthy Idaho Plan would keep Idahoans from 100-138% of the Federal Poverty level in Idaho’s very successful health insurance exchange (Your Health Idaho), while covering those truly in the coverage gap below the poverty line.”



Resource List

Experts to contact

Dr. Ted Epperly: CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, ted.epperly@fmridaho.org

Toni Lawson: Idaho Hospital Association, TLawson@teamiha.org, (208) 489-1404

Susie Pouliot: Idaho Medical Association, susie@idmed.org, 208.344.7888

Neva Santos: Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, idahoafp@aol.com, (208) 407-1854

Access to Idahoans in the Gap

We have contacts with several Idahoans in the gap across the state, contact: ctiddens@ccidaho.org for details.

Links to recent Medicaid Expansion reports:

State Medicaid Expansion and Citizens' Quality of Life:

https://blogs.baylor.edu/patrick_j_flavin/files/2010/09/Flavin_Medicaid_Expansion_SWB_11.23.15-xufuxp.pdf

States Expanding Medicaid See Significant Budget Savings:

<http://statenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/State-Network-Manatt-States-Expanding-Medicaid-See-Significant-Budget-Savings-and-Revenue-Gains-April-2015.pdf>

Medicaid Expansion Is Producing Large Gains in Health Coverage and Saving States Money:

<http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-expansion-is-producing-large-gains-in-health-coverage-and-saving-states>