

The Legislative Session is Over!

By

Scott Leavitt, IAHU Legislative Chair

The 2012 Legislature has finished their session and gone home for the year, without passing a law to create an Idaho Health Insurance Exchange. We had a very busy month working to protect your clients, our industry and your careers. We started last month with over 100 agents attending the Day on the Hill at the Idaho Capital. We as a Legislative Committee had meetings with Sen. Cameron, Rep. Moyle and several other Legislators. On Thursday March 15th we had over 20 agents & business owners attend a meeting with Speaker of the House Rep. Denney to encourage him to support moving the Exchange Bill along with giving it a bill hearing, a committee hearing and bringing it to the House floor for a vote. We were told that he would support the Exchange if it was sent to the Senate first. Most in attendance spoke which included agents and business owners from his district. Once we left we worked with the coalition to get the bill through the Senate.

The leadership of both the House and the Senate could never come together to give the bill a hearing before the session ended. We did all that we could to get this passed. We had the Freedom Foundation and the Tea Party against us and the industry. We had several Legislators wanting to wait for the ruling from the Supreme Court and the results of the elections this fall. We kept telling them that it is very unlikely for all of the stars to align for us and that the risk is too great. It also did not help that this is an election year, meaning that most of them did not want to vote for anything that involved the PPACA law.

We will not give up. If the Supreme Court does not overturn the entire PPACA law, there could still be a special session this summer or we could get some additional time for next session. We have fought too hard to give up now. If there is still a chance to help our clients, save our industry and jobs here in Idaho We need to keep the fight alive. Keep watching for alerts from IAHU and pass these along to your clients and colleagues.

If we all work together we can win this battle have get the exchange passed so our clients can have choices, the assistance of health insurance agents, we can save the health insurance industry in Idaho, protect Idaho's economy and agents can still have a place in this great industry. We need to keep fighting.