

IAHU Legislative update

By

Scott Leavitt- IAHU Legislative Chair

Last month Idaho request \$30.9 million in federal grant money to help set up a state exchange. We recently found out Idaho received a \$20.4 million federal grant. Last year voted Idaho lawmakers refused to approve the Dept. of Insurance's budget which included \$2.5 million of exchange grant money until it was taken out. Lawmakers that are leery of the PPACA reform could still reject the grant money this next session.

As the Exchange bill is nearing completion we have provided you with exchange talking points to be able to use once the bill is completed. I would urge you to be patient in talking with legislators about the potential exchange bill until we actually have a bill to support. We will let you know once the bill has made it out of the Exchange task force, approved by the Health Care task force and endorsed by the Governor.

IAHU has been working to strengthen our relationships with other stakeholders groups by joining the Idaho Insurance Council, partnering with NAIFA-Idaho on our exchange message, meeting the Dept. of Insurance and working with carriers. We need those of you who have not submitted your "Key Contact" form to adopt an Idaho Legislator; I would encourage you to do so. As the legislative sessions start will be calling on our Key Contacts to meet with Legislators regarding our message, we will need all the help we can get. Thank you to those that turned your in. This next legislative session will be very important to the future of our industry.

Governor Otter had the state of. The exchange task force is still working on the language for the bill that is to be ready for the next legislative session to create a state exchange. When the bill is finished, we will notify you regarding our grassroots efforts to help pass the bill if it is a bill that we can live with. In regards to the federal rules regarding the creation of an exchange the comment period ended on October 31st. NAHU provided comments as well as IAHU by the deadline.

If you have not sent in your Key Contact form yet I would encourage you to do so. As of today we have 25 of you that have sent in their Key contact forms. We will all need to work together to protect our future.