

Idaho State Exchange Part 2!

By Scott Leavitt

IAHU Leg. Chair

We have been spending most of our legislative efforts in working on getting a State Based Health Exchange passed in the Idaho Legislature before the session ends next month. In the past few weeks S1042 was sent to the full Senate floor for a vote and was passed on a 23-12 and then was sent on to the House. In the meantime a group of 16 Freshman House Republican Representatives banded together to create a new exchange companion bill that addressed the concerns of many of the naysayers by adding 3 State legislators to the Exchange board for oversight. In the process House Speaker Bedke decided to have a new bill written to combine both bills into one new Exchange Bill H248 -

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/H0248.htm> introduced in the House Health & Welfare Committee.

As H248 was ready to be heard in committee we needed to finally enact our “Key Contact Program” to ensure that we had the support needed to get the bill out of committee. Thank you to those of you we contacted to make phone calls to get the support we needed. Last Thursday H248 was heard in committee and I was able to testify in support of the bill on behalf of IAHU. The bill was passed on a 10-1 vote and is now scheduled to be heard on the House floor this Wednesday. We feel confident we can get the bill through the House and then back into the Senate Commerce Committee for its next hearing. We are getting close to getting a State Based Health Exchange passed despite the opposition of the Tea Party & the Freedom Foundation.

Thank you to those who attended the 2013 Idaho Day on the Hill on Feb. 20th we had over 100 people in attendance to hear from; Dir. Deal, Speaker Bedke, Rep. Rushe, Sen. Cameron, John Mackay- NAIFA-Idaho Lobbyist & Colby Cameron- IAHU Lobbyist speaking during the afternoon; and we had dinner with Legislators afterwards.

IAHU was also well represented last month in Washington DC at NAHU’s Capitol Conference. We had Tom Shores, David Wilcox, Trent Sutton, Troy Goodwin, Robert Tierney, Dave Munger, Connie Puett and myself in attendance. We were able to meet with the entire Idaho delegation of Sen. Crapo, Sen. Risch, Rep. Simpson & Rep. Labrador about several key PPACA items such as MLR, the new Federal Premium tax and the new 3:1 premium ratio that goes into effect in 2014. We were able to get their support of bills that are in the process to help fix these crucial provisions.

Continue to watch your emails for the assistance we need to get H238 passed. Together we can continue to serve the needs of our clients and our industry!