

We need to keep fighting

By

Scott Leavitt, IAHU Legislative Chair

We had a very busy month working to protect your clients, our industry and your careers. This last month we sent out our second Operation Shout regarding the creation of an Idaho State Health Insurance Exchange. As of this time 40% of you have responded to the Operation Shout. Thank you to those of you that have done so, I am urging those 60% of you that have not done so to please respond. Your futures are at risk.

The original Exchange Bill that was drafted this past fall was assigned to the House Health & Welfare Committee with Rep. McGeachin and still sits in her drawer and will probably never get a hearing. There has since been 3 other draft bills that have been created to move Idaho down the road to creating a State Exchange. We need one of these bills to get a bill number and a hearing so we can all voice our views and hopefully get a bill passed in time. The Idaho Legislature is looking at adjourning the last week of March, which means we only a few weeks to get this done. As soon as we know that we have a bill number we will be sending out a "Call to Action" to all of you contact the Legislators in your District to support this bill as well as your clients.

If you have not joined the Keep it in Idaho coalition at- www.keepitinidaho.com , please do so. The coalition has now also created a video that tells the story of an Idaho Business owner and the effects a Federal Exchange will have. Please have your clients join as well, it is so important that they hear from business owners as well as the agents.

On March 1 we held our annual Day on the Hill with NAIFA-Idaho and had about 100 agents in attendance at the Idaho State Capital. We heard from Director Bill Deal, Speaker of the House Denney, Sen. Dean Cameron, Sen. Dan Schmidt, John Mackey and Jim Genetti. We had a great day meeting that was followed by a reception with the Legislators and a few Real Life Stories. Thank you to those who attended.

We need everyone's help, we can't do this alone. Please respond to the Operations Shouts, contact your Legislators, contact your clients and keep the fight alive. 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.