

## IAHU Legislative update

By

Scott Leavitt- IAHU Legislative Chair

This month I would like to start off by providing you with a short summary of the legislative activities from a Federal level. Many of you may have heard that the HHS announced that it would not implement a health reform provision called the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports program, or CLASS act. Regarding HR 1206, the Medical Loss Ratio bill, Congress currently has 133 co-sponsors and is still working its way through the Committee. For those of you who like to have an opportunity to hear from great speakers, meet key members of Congress and lobby on Capitol Hill to our Federal Lawmakers you should consider attending the NAHU Cap Conference which is January 23 – 25, 2012.

On a state level we have been very busy for you our members. I was asked to testify before the Idaho Health Care task force on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> regarding the need for a state exchange over a federal exchange. There were 10 organizations that testified regarding the issue of creating a state exchange. Nine of the ten organizations were in favor of creating a state exchange over a federal exchange except the Idaho Freedom Foundation. My testimony will be posted on the IAHU website for your use.

Governor Otter had the state of Idaho request \$30.9 million in federal grant money to help set up a state exchange. 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.