

Our Industry's Future!

By Scott Leavitt

IAHU Leg. Chair

This is a very important time for our Industry's future and we need your involvement more than ever before. IAHU has been very busy working on your behalf on the legislative front. Gov. Otter has formed the Exchange Working Group to consider how Idaho should address a federal mandate to establish a health insurance exchange. IAHU has a seat on this working group to make sure our message is being heard and the role of the agent is being protected. On Nov. 16 the Governor has to declare Idaho's intentions of either setting up a state-based exchange, a partnership exchange or default to a federal exchange. In a perfect world we would rather not have any exchange but having no exchange is not an option, we need Idaho to set up a state-based exchange to protect our industry and our consumers.

We have become a founding member of the Idaho Health Exchange Alliance to work with other organizations that support the mission of creating a State-based exchange over defaulting to a Federal-based exchange. Please go to the Alliance's website- www.keepitinidaho.com to learn more or to join. I would also ask for you to have your clients do the same.

As the election is fast approaching I would encourage all of you to get involved in the election process by first- making sure you vote, second- educating yourself in finding out who supports your beliefs and third- supporting those who support your beliefs by assisting them in their election efforts. I would also ask you to consider contributing to both HUPAC and IAHUPAC. HUPAC makes contributions to Federal candidates who are running for office. IAHUPAC makes Idaho candidates who are running for State office. Your donations will help us in our legislative efforts by opening up access to these legislators.

If you have not already signed as a "Key Contact" I am asking you to do so. We currently have 26 Key Contacts covering 40 of our 105 State Legislators, as you can see we need more of you to help. Many of you might have a personal or business relationship with a Legislator that could help us in important times during this next year. If we have no knowledge of your relationship, it makes it harder for us to reach out for your help.

In closing I would like to express my gratitude to Jim Genetti for serving the past two years as the IAHU Lobbyist. Jim has decided to retire from IAHU and enjoy time with his grandkids. I would also like to now also introduce you to our newly contracted IAHU Lobbyist, Colby Cameron. Colby works for the law firm of Sullivan, Reberger & Eiguren and has great relationships with the Idaho Legislators. I know we will be well served by Colby as we move forward in this important time. If you have a chance to see Jim, thank him for his service. Together we can preserve our industries future.