

# Time to Keep the Fight Alive!

By Scott Leavitt

IAHU Leg. Chair

When I wrote last month's article I was encouraging you to contact Governor Otter and ask him to declare that Idaho needed to create a non-profit State Based Exchange by extended deadline of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. We sent out a second operation shout and many of you responded, thank you! The result of all of our hard work over the last several months was that on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Gov. Otter declared that Idaho would submit to set up a State Based Exchange. This is a huge victory for our industry. The Idaho Statesman ran our letter to the editor on Dec. 27, 2012, thanking the Governor for his decision. I would encourage all of you to either call or send an email thanking the Governor as well.

On Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> HHS has now conditionally approved Idaho's exchange plan. This does not mean that our work is done though; our work has just now begun. We now need the Idaho Legislature to pass legislation to formally set up the non-profit State Based Exchange. This will take work from all of our membership and the members of the Exchange Alliance. Once Gov. Otter announced that Idaho would be setting up the State Based Exchange the opposition has now doubled their efforts against our message. The Gem State Tea Party and the Freedom Foundation will be trying to get the Idaho legislature to not pass the Exchange bill and will also try to get Gov. Otter to back off as well.

So what does that mean? That means that we need to have every member of the Idaho legislature know who IAHU members are and what our message is. There are now over 30 new Freshman Legislators in Idaho. We need to get to know each and every one of them so they can understand our views and how important our industry is to the people of Idaho. We have been pushing our "Key Contact": program for the last year. If you have not signed up as a "Key Contact" yet, the time to do so is now. Please complete the "Key Contact" form and fax it back to me, so we can be ready to contact you when needed.

Even though the election may not have gone our way, we must never give up the fight! Together we can preserve our industry's future.