

# Wyoming Coalition for Medicaid Solutions

## News Release

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## Coalition Makes Strong Case for Medicaid Expansion, But Procedural Maneuver Dooms Stand-Alone Bill for 2014 Session

CHEYENNE – A Senate committee used the clock to kill the remaining Medicaid expansion bill of the 2014 Wyoming Legislature, leaving a possible amendment to the budget bill as the only option for 17,600 low-income adults to get health insurance.

Wyoming Coalition for Medicaid Solutions made a strong case for expansion Wednesday as the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services Committee considered Senate File 118 Medicaid-Staged Expansion.

“We have a chance to shore up the state’s health care system, including our community hospitals, by insuring thousands of people using federal dollars. It’s unfortunate that the committee turned its back on that opportunity this morning,” said Dan Perdue, executive director of the Wyoming Hospital Association.

“It’s especially frustrating when the match is at 100 percent. Time is running out to optimize this chance to insure people who have gone without insurance, sometimes for years,” Perdue said.

The bill would have provided health insurance to low-income adults in Wyoming without dependent children, by making them eligible for Medicaid. These individuals have no other option for health insurance. Only expansion can provide that coverage.

“Unfortunately, the committee chairman knows how to manipulate procedure to achieve his own goals,” said Dan Neal, executive director of the Equality State Policy Center. “The committee took testimony but never took a vote by the procedural deadline, meaning the bill died while none of the five committee members had to go on the record.” Chairman Charles Scott, who has made it clear he opposes expansion, declined to call a meeting to vote, over the objections of one committee member, Sen. Bernadine Craft, D-Rock Springs.

The coalition, representing 25 organizations, continues to advocate for an amendment to the budget bill to insure low-income adults through Medicaid, a program that is working well in Wyoming.

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