



Health Care

“Implement an Idaho solution to provide affordable and sustainable health insurance coverage for all Idahoans.”

In Idaho, most recent estimates indicate that approximately 54,000 individuals fall in the health insurance coverage gap—Idahoans who are ineligible for Medicaid, but whose income levels also disqualify them from receiving financial incentives to purchase coverage through the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange. The majority of the people who fall in the gap are working families.

The Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce and its members have identified healthcare as an issue of concern for the businesses that we represent, the vast majority being small businesses. Reliance on emergency room treatment, lost productivity, and health care costs are significant burdens to Idaho’s economy, local governments, businesses, and families. Idaho’s current indigent care system is costly and does not provide for primary and preventive care, much less comprehensive healthcare for individuals who fall in the gap. Providing comprehensive coverage can reduce the significant economic burden of disease in addition to improving the length and quality of people’s lives. By improving access to healthcare, individuals, businesses, and communities will benefit. Access to healthcare is known to improve overall health and productivity of employees and decrease lost time at work due to illness, which directly benefits our local businesses.

It is the desire of the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce that the Idaho Legislature implement a solution that would provide access to affordable and sustainable health insurance coverage for all Idahoans.