

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25550

This legislation will bring down the cost of health care for all Idahoans by increasing access to health care and increasing accountability.

The Accountable Community Care Policy is designed to reduce health care costs for all Idahoans, regardless of their health, income or geographical location, by creating better outcomes for patients and establishing accountability in the health care system. The plan is built around three key components – addressing Idaho's doctor shortage, ensuring health insurers, pharmaceutical companies and hospitals are held accountable and ensuring there is quality, coordinated health care services available to Idaho's Medicaid population and those who fall in the gap.

This legislation will increase the number of family medicine residency slots in Idaho. This will help increase the number of primary doctors we have in the future. However, to help fill the immediate need the state is experiencing, the Accountable Community Care Policy will create a loan forgiveness program to help community health centers recruit doctors. This will help incentivize doctors to serve in rural parts of the state and also build the infrastructure for residency programs down the road.

To keep costs down and hold hospitals accountable, this legislation will direct hospitals to help patients find a primary care home when appropriate instead of continuing costly emergency room visits. More accountability will also be added for health insurers and pharmaceutical companies. Patient accountability is also included, taking the form of coaching and needed resources to help them take an active role in their health.

Finally, this legislation creates a program that will serve those who are currently receiving Medicaid or part of the gap population. Through direct primary care, and subject to funding, people without coverage in Idaho will be able to establish care at a medical home with care coordination and management. The program will also move Medicaid enrollees into locally controlled coordinated care contracts. This will reduce costs, increase patient accountability and improve outcomes.

The Accountable Community Care Policy puts the infrastructure and tools in place so local experts can determine the best way to solve the problems facing their communities. This plan reduces health care costs for all Idahoans, improves patient outcomes and expands access to those in need. Most importantly, it keeps Idahoans in control of important health care decisions and prevents federal interference.

FISCAL NOTE

While there will be no cost directly to the general fund with this legislation, trailer bills may allow funds to be put into the loan repayment program and the primary care access program. The state will see savings in indigent care as access increases around the state. Similarly, cities and counties will see reduced costs in local efforts to deal with health care costs.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).