



Legisletter

Produced by UHA, Utah Hospitals & Health Systems Association

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Health Reform Legislation Passes House Health Committee

[H.B. 133 – Health System Reform](#), sponsored by Representative Dave Clark, passed out of the House Health Committee this week. The bill was amended to include an eleven member legislative task force that is tasked to come up with a framework for health system reform by November 2008. H.B. 133 will likely be debated on the House floor early next week. UHA supports passage of H.B. 133.

Niche Provider Legislation Update

[S.B. 121 – Access To Qualified Healthcare Providers](#) that is very similar to the any willing provider legislation from last year is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health Committee next Tuesday morning along with [S.B. 74 – Health Care Provider Access](#). This legislation would prohibit any hospital with more than 25% of the beds in a county from negotiating contracts with insurers that provide discounts to the insurer in return for restrictions on that insurer's provider network. In addition, Senator Christensen has introduced [S.B. 82 – Ambulatory Surgical Center Amendments](#) that would require that ambulatory surgical centers must be on Medicaid panels and the same legislation with regard to CHIP has been proposed by Representative Paul Ray in [H.B. 337 – Access To Children's Health Insurance Program](#). UHA is working with a broad business and industry coalition to defeat these bills. **UHA urges every hospital to contact their Senator on Monday to oppose these bills. Senator's need to hear from you as constituents that you oppose these bills.**

Other Legislation of Interest

[H.B. 47 – Standards of Exchange For Electronic Health Records](#) has been amended and passed by the House. Hospital lien legislation and mandatory arbitration for small medical malpractice claims legislation have still not been introduced. Legislation addressing payment for prisoner's health claims has passed a House committee and is on the calendar for full House consideration next week.

Please Come to Our Annual Hospital Day At The Legislature

Please RSVP to come to UHA's Annual Hospital Day At The Legislature to be held on Monday, February 18th. We will have a wonderful lunch in the Capitol Rotunda with many legislators and we hope you will come. It will be a great opportunity to mingle with your legislators and see the beautifully restored State Capitol. Please call Brenda at 486-9915 if you would like to attend.

UHA Is Here To Help You Keep Informed

Please visit the UHA website at www.uth-utah.org for more legislative information. Attached you will find a comprehensive list of health bills and their current status. For additional legislative information you can go to the legislative website at www.le.state.ut.us where you can read and track proposed legislation, see committee agendas and find lots of other pertinent information. If you have specific questions or concerns, please e-mail Dave Gessel at dave@uha-utah.org or call him at 231-3404.