RESPONDING TO THE ACA: An Opportunity to Innovate

Presented to
the National Conference of State Legislatures

by
Representative Jim Dunnigan
Co-chair of the Utah Legislature's Health Reform Task Force

August 21, 2014
Three Utah innovations

1. Preserve and strengthen the legislature's policymaking role
   - Prohibit ACA implementation without specific reporting to the legislature
   - Prohibit Medicaid expansion without explicit approval by the legislature

2. Operate the SHOP, but not the individual marketplace
   - Create a hybrid model

3. Address the coverage gap in a way that recognizes Utah values and priorities
   - Strengthen the existing charity care network \(\textit{passed}\)
   - Create a state-funded premium assistance program \(\textit{not passed}\)
   - Use the ACA’s enhanced Medicaid funding to create a premium assistance program \(\textit{not passed; under negotiation}\)
Premium assistance details

Under negotiation with HHS

- Rely on employer sponsored plans and other private coverage, where possible
- Allow the medically frail to opt out
- Require premiums and copays for adults 100 – 138% FPL, but ensure that cost sharing does not exceed federal Marketplace
- Provide wrap-around coverage from Medicaid, where necessary
- Include incentives for employment and work training, healthy behaviors, and proper utilization