

Facts show benefits of Medicaid Expansion

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To the editor: I attended the Health Care for All forum with Senator Cunningham on March 18 and read the excellent coverage of the forum by Terry Hampton. Facts do matter even if most people are stirred to action by emotions. Our actions should be guided by facts. Senator Cunningham sounds like he will change his position and support Medicaid Expansion if it is not a drain on the budget. The facts are there to show Medicaid Expansion will be a net benefit economically.

The state is losing money because of the delay in approving Medicaid Expansion. There is no logical reason to delay implementation in the name of reform. Reform can happen as the program is expanded. The anecdotes Senator Cunningham cited to support his position are an indictment of problems caused by people not being covered. These can be solved once people have access to dependable and preventive health care instead of relying on emergency room visits. Senator Cunningham asked, "This area does need a hospital, but is the state in business to keep the hospital open?" One should ask, "Should the state be the cause of forcing hospitals to close?"

Senator Cunningham needs to stand for the people of the Eighth District and find a way to make Medicaid Expansion happen this year.

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